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NATIONAL HISTORY GUIDE COMMITTEE (NEPAL)
Source Manual Series No. 4

(Dedeldhura, Doti, Bajura, Achham, Bajhang, Jumla, Mugu, Kalikot, Jajarkot, Surkhet, Dailekh, Sallyan, Rolpa, Dang, Piuthan, Mustang, Myagdi, Baglung, Parvat, Arghakhanchi, Gulmi, Palpa, Kapilvastu, Tanahun, Lamjung, Shyangja, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dolakha, Udayapur, Bhojpur and Panchthar district.)

Editor:

Dr. Shaphalya Amatya
Executive Director
National History Committee (Nepal)

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(Nepal)

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Foreword

It gives me great satisfaction to be able to bring out this source booklet series No. 4 on behalf of National History Guide Committee (Nepal). Ever since 1979 A.D. when Nepal participated in Guide to the Sources of Asian History Project, the archival materials, public records and historical records were being collected from different districts of Nepal with the cooperation of the personnel of the National Archives and the Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Education and Culture, His Majesty's Government. In this connection, public records, historical records and archival materials from 32 districts were critically examined upto the present time and the reports thereof were accumulated and published in this source booklet series No. 4. Mr. Shankar Man Rajbamshi, the researcher, has helped in evaluating in the task of critically examining public records from the districts of Doti, Dadeldhura, Surkhet and Dailekh while Mr. Shyam Sundar Rajbamshi, the epigraphist from the Department of Archaeology, covered the districts of Jumla, Mugu, Kalikot, Rasuwa, Panchthar, Bhojpur and Udayapur in his research operations. The survey operations of Palpa, Kapilvastu and Dang districts were conducted the joint team of Mr. Bishnu Kant Sharma, Archaeology Officer and Shyam Sundar Rajbamshi, the epigraphist from the Department of Archaeology. The lecturers of Tribhuvan University - Ramesh Dhungel - ccovered the district of Mustang, Dr. Rajaram Subedi the districts of Bajhang, Jajarkot, Rolpa and Sallyan. Mr. Tek Bahadur Shrestha covered the districts of Palpa, Arghakhanchi, Gulmi, Tanahun, Lamjung, Dolakha, Nuwakot, Shyangja, Parvat, Baglung, Myagdi and Piuthan and Mr. Purna Prasad "Yatri", an independent researcher, surveyed the historical materials of the districts of Achham and Bajura and extended cooperation to the project.

The various public records that are likely to help the structure of the national history are being brought out from time to time with a view to running the administrative set-up in an organised manner. The Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Education and Culture, His Majesty's Government and the National Archives subordinate to it have extended cooperation in this operation. In course of its operation, the chief organ of this Department "Ancient Nepal" has run into 120 numbers. This journal has published the survey of the public records from other districts not included in this source booklet. That is why no special concern should be expressed about those districts not covered by this source booklet. Among the other important source booklets are the collection of Archaeological letters, parts 1, 2 and 3 Historical Letters Collection parts 1 and 2 and the Collection of Historical Letters parts 1 and 2 published by the Department of Archaeology.

The Institute of Nepalese Studies, under Tribhuvan University has conducted the survey of public records and brought out various publications before the public. Among those important publications are the historical materials relating to Gorkha, the historical materials of Tistung-Chitlang environs, the documents of the period of King Prithvi Narayan Shah - Ranajit Malla and the mouthpiece of that Institute - contribution to Nepalese studies.

Among the contributions made by the non-governmental organisations, the role played by the Samsodhan Mandal (Research Circle) cannot be ignored. This organisation has helped in the task of history writing of the nation by publishing the inscriptions so that the administrators themselves are greatly benefitted through these materials. The

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contributions made by this organisation can be guaged from its journal running to 75 numbers. Among other source books of this organisation are Itihas Samsodhak Pramaya, Abhilekh Sangraha Part I to XII, Itihasik Patra Sangraha Part I & II, Gallima Phakeyako Kasingar etc. - (the evidence and the justification of public records from 1 to 12,) (collection of Historical Letters and parts 1 and 2) and (the filthy materials thrown into the junk yard of the alley.)

The collection of treaties (Part 1) published in the Aitihasik Prakash (lights on history) by Yogi Narahari Nath is of great importance as a source booklet. Similarly the documents from the Rudra Verna Mahavihar, Patan (Sales and Mortgages) edited by Bernhard Kolver and Hem Raj Shakey may be taken as an important source booklet. There may be many other publications which I have failed to take note of here and which may be valuable as source book materials. For these lapses on my part, I apologise to the authors for my oversight.

In course of on-going publications of source booklets series, the source books series Nos. 1, 2 & 3 have already been translated into English and duly published. I want to offer myheart felt thanks to Shankar Man Rajbamshi, the researcher, Mr. Bishnu Kant Sharma, Archeological Officer, lecturers - Ramesh Dhungel and Dr. Rajaram Subedi - Mr. Tek Bahadur Shrestha, Mr. Poorna Prasad Nepal "Yatri" who went to different disttricts and evaluated public records for bringing out this booklet. Among other colleagues to whom I am grateful for their contribution to the publication of this book, specific mention must be made of Mr. Shyam Sundar Rajbamshi, the epigraphist. I once again offer my sincere thanks to the residents of the districts, political workers as well as the distinguished personalities, the teams of this Department and other lecturers who were involved in evaluating the public records for bringing out this publication.

Finally I offer my thanks to all the members of the guide committee for extending their active cooperation in this venture and extending to some extent fiscal assistance by UNESCO and International Council on Archives.

1st Baisak 2048
(14 April 1991)

Dr. Shaphalya Amatya
Executive Director
National History Guidance
Committee (Nepal)

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The District of Dadeldhura

The district of Dadeldhura under the remote western regional development sector of the Mahakali zone is situated at the height of 2021 ft above the sea level. As the motorable road from Kailali-Dhangadhi runs to Dadeldhura, it is not difficult to transport goods to this locality from the Tarai.

The materials received in the district of Dadeldhura.

The copper plate and the published works of Uddhav Raj Pant, resident of Karigaon, Dadeldhura.

1. The copper plate of King Bikram Shahi dated 8th Ashadh Sudi, 1603 Shake (1681 A.D.).

2. The copper plate of King Mandhata Shahi dated 1622 Shake (1700 A.D.).

3. A booklet entitled Ghatalopakhyan.

4. A booklet entitled Malika Mahatmya.

The copper plate received from Jaya Raj Basti, resident of the Manilek Village Dadeldhura.

1. The copper plate of King Bikram Shahi dated 1596 Shake (1674 A.D.)

The inscriptions received from the temple of Kuleraksheswar.

1. One bell with the inscription dedicated to Shri Kuleraksheswar Mahadeva by Kottim Kumari Devi, wife of Nar Bahadur Bista Chhetri, son of Subedar Ajab Simha, resident of Khalanga, Dadeldhura, Doti, dated Monday the 29th Aswin, 1991 B.S. (October 1935 A.D.).

2. . . . . stone inscription.

The Dadeldhura Kot and the temple of Kalika.

After ascending from the market of Dadeldhura, we come to the ancient armoury (Kot) of Dadeldhura. To the north of this armoury, there is a reservoir out of which the water is distributed throughout the market place. There is a shrine of Kali near the reservoir.

The records available at the shrine of Kalika.

1. A stone inscription dedicated to Shri Kalika by Captain Kunwar Simha Basnyat dated Friday the 12th Phalgun Sudi, 1944 B.S. (February 1888 A.D.).

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2. A bell with the inscription that it was dedicated to Shri Kalika Devi by the wife of Captain Bir Bahadur Simha, a princeling, on Sunday the 6th of Marga 1972 on the full moon day of 1972 B.S. (November 1915 A.D.).

3. The writings on the bell dated 1962 B.S. (1905 A.D.) at the shrine of Shri Bhairav at the Dadeldhura armoury.

The temple of Ugratara.

There is a temple of Ugratara Devi at the Tantara Village Dadeldhura. There is the image of the deity riding a lion. The crowned deity has eight arms. The four right hands carry a discus, a sword, a noose and solace (Abhaya). Her left hands carry flowers, a mace, a hammer and a pot. Near this temple there are other temples of Bhairav and Mahadev. At the entrance to the temple of Ugratara, a miniature image of Ugratara Devi is housed. Her foot stool has two lined public record inscribed.

The public record of the foot stool of Ugratara.

1. Ganga Bahadur Basnyat, son of Subedar Sher Bahadur Basnyat, dated the 6th Marga, 1999 (November 1942 A.D.).

The Ugratara trust

The operational cost of its rituals amounts rupees 1200. According to the version of Bhavani Datta Bhatta, the priest of the deity, the trust has 100 ropanis of land. The following are the sources of income for the trust according to his contention.

1. One portion from the Koteli Village
2. One portion from the Dumada Pokhara Village
3. One portion from the Chhachhoda Village
4. One portion from the Bakade Village

Ajayamer Hat

Coming down by way of the Dadeldhura Kuleraksheswar Mahadev temple, we come to the village called Majar. After crossing the stream of this Majar village, we walk along the stream with the Majar village to the left and take up the hilly path and reach Ajayamer Hat. This Hat village is bounded by the Hardi village in the west, the Golai hill in the east, Sunel Majelwada in the north and the Jijoda village in the south. This Ajayamer Hat is surrounded by the Majar village stream flowing to the north and following the east-west course. On the top of a gigantic rock, there are traces of the past palace which is called Ajayamer Kot (armoury).

The materials received from Chetram Nath, the priest of Ajayamer.

1. The Commander-in-Chief's executive order (Ek CHHAPE) DATED 1905 B.S. (1848 A.D.) providing for operating the rituals of the deity.

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2. The instrument confirming the operation of the rituals of the deity dated 1885 B.S. (1828 A.D.).

3. The premier's executive order (Rukka) dated 1906 B.S. (1849 A.D.) relating to the operation of the rituals of the deity.

The inscriptional stone-tablet available at Ajayamer Hat.

1. The inscription on the stone tablet of the temple near the Bir Column of the Ajayamerr fort (Gadh).

2. The inscription at the small temple situated down the building housing the lord of the Ajayamer fort.

3. The inscription of the temple near the Bir Column.

4. The inscription of the temple near the lord of Ajayamer.

5. The inscription of the temple near the Ajayamer Bir Column.

6. The inscription of the temple to the south-east of the Ajayamer Nath building.

7. The inscription of Nag Malla on the Ajayamer Bir Column.

8. The inscription of the temple near the Ajayamer Bir Column.

The copper plates obtained from Karunakar Joshi, resident of the Ralli village, Ajayamer.

1. Shrawan 1399 Shake (August 1477 A.D.)

2. Marga 1518 Shake (November 1596 A.D.)

3. Marga 1402 Shake (November 1480 A.D.)

4. Jestha 1390 Shake (June 1468 A.D.)

The copper plates obtained from Tika Datta Bhatta, resident of the Jijoda village, Ajayamer.

1. The copper plate of Mandhata Shahi dated Jestha 1641 Shake (June 1719 A.D.).

2. The copper plate of Bikram Shahi dated Ashwin Sudi 1, 1607 Shake (October 1685 A.D.).

3. That of Mandhata Shahi dated Baisakh Sudi 5, 1612 Shake (April 1690 A.D.).

4. That of Pahadi Shahi dated Marga 1594 Shake (November 1672 A.D.).

5. That of Bhadra Sudi 1, 1953 B.S.

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6. That of Marga 1568 Shake (November 1646 A.D.).

7. 1564 Shake (1692 A.D.).

8. Bhadra 1653 Shake (September 1731 A.D.).

9. Ashwin Sudi 6, 1639 (October 1717 A.D.).

10. Jestha Sudi 13, 1627 (June 1705 A.D.).

The copper plates obtained from Bhimadatta Bhatta, resident of Jijoda, Ajayamer

1. 1662 Shake (1740 A.D.).

2. 1685 Shake (1763 A.D.).

3. That of Krishna Shahi dated 1683 Shake (1761 A.D.).

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The Doti District

Dipayal is situated in a valley surrounded by hills. It is the headquarters of the far western development zone and is in the district of Doti of the Seti zone. To the east lies Silgarhi and the hill of Kota Bhairav, to the west lies the mountain used as his operational base by Kazi Ambar Simha Thapa when he was expanding the Nepalese territory. This stands as a fortress and is called Sira Kholi. To the south flows the Seti and to the north lies the hill of the Malau village. It elevation is 1221 feet above the sea level. The airstrip lies on the bank of the Seti.

The temple of Dilipeswar, a historical site

There is a tradition that the place was called Dipayal because it was a grazing ground of the cow named Nandini belonging to Vasistha, the sage. King Dilip attended on the cow and the place where he took care of the cow got the nomenclature Dipayal for the reason. To the south of the Dipayal airstrip, the temple of Dilipeswar Mahadev is situated on the bank of the Seti. The temple is being renovated currently out of contribution made by His Majesty the King. This image of Dilipeswar corroborates the advent of King Dilip to his place.

The monastery of Dilipeswar

The monastery of Dilipeswar is situated in the shadow of a holy fig tree within the premises of the temple of Dilipeswar. The abbot is currently Chandra Nath who has planted various kinds of fruit trees and flowers within the temple premises and thereby made the place delightful and beautiful. He has renovated the monastery itself and given it a face-lift. The image of Gorakh Nath made of marble has been set-up within the monastery within the said premises there are the graves of nine deceased abbots.

Public records acquired from within the Dilipeswar monastery

1. The inscription of Pahadi Shahi dated 1570 Shake (1648 A.D.) on the wall of the temple of Dilipeswar.

2. The inscription of Siddha Sahaj Nath dated 1681 Shake (1759 A.D.) on the wall of the grave within the monastery of Dilipeswar.

3. Another inscription dated 1967 B.S. on the grave near the wall of the monastery of Dilipeswar.

4. The inscription on the plinth of Gorakh Nath within the temple of Gorakh Nath of the monastery of Dilipeswar.

Documents obtained from the abbot of the monastery of Dilipeswar

1. The document bearing the signatures of three persons issued on Friday the new moon day of Poush (December 1897 A.D.) by the feudal taxes collection office for the temple of Dilipeswar at Dipayal.

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2. The Lal Mohar (Royal Executive Order) of King Tribhuvan dated Sunday the 6th of Phalgun, 1969 B.S. (February 1911 A.D.) confirming the trust land of the operations of the routine rituals and vesper of Dilipeswar in favour of Lavang Nath, the abbot.

3. The Lal Mohar of King Girvan dated Sunday the 14th of Ashwin in the waning fortnight of 1863 B.S. (October 1806 A.D.) confirming the retention of the traditional trust land in favour of Lavang Nath, the abbot.

4. The document bearing the signatures of three persons (Tin Chhape) issued by Chautaria (Royal Collateral) Hastadal Shah on Saturday the first day of Ashadh Sudi, 1871 B.S. (July 1814 A.D.) addressed to the tax-collecctor (Amali) of the Tikha village imposing taxation there.

5. The stipulation made to the wandering monks for the rituals of Dilipeswar dated Sunday the 4th of Jestha Sudi, 1926 B.S. (June 1869 A.D.).

6. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Thursday the fourth day in the dark half (Vadi) of Shrawan, 1891 B.S. (August 1834 A.D.) exempting the people thereof from corvee.

Obtained through public relations

A Lal Mohar of King Rana Bahadur empowering Pahadi Shahi, King of Doti, to run the administration of Doti on payment of 9 gold coins to the Nepalese King. The document was obtained from Hari Bikram Shahi by approaching the Rana village at Rajapur. The said document was set on fire during the revolution of 2007 B.S. (1950 A.D.) according to his version. The family tree of the King of Doti prepared by him up to the present time stands like this:

Krishna Shah

Bishnu Shah

Pahadi Shahi

Baladeeva Shah

Shur Jung Shah

Shamshere Bahadur Shah

Padma Bikram — Hari Bikram

Mohan Bikram — Shiva Bikram, Himmat Bahadur, Lal Bahadur, Yogendra Bikram

Chakra Bahadur Janak Bahadur Nava Raj

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Obatained from Krishna Bahadur Dauria

1. The copper plate of Krishna Shah dated 1700 Shake (1778 A.D.).

2. The ordinance of premier Jung Bahadurr dated 1907 B.S. (1850 A.D.).

3. The ordinance of Bhim Shumshere dated 1970 B.S. (1913 A.D.). A bundle of folktales.

4. The document with the genealogy of the kings of solar dynasty.

The armoury barrack

It stands as a fortress. Inside the fortresses cannon have been mounted at places. The fortress is built with solid stone battlements. It is also called Khalanga. As this fortress is made of stone walls, it may have obtained the name of Silgadhi (stone fortress). It is at the altitude 1330 feet above the sea level. To the east lies the Bhavar Hill the Pagri village to the south, Kot Bhairav to the west and to the north the Kalena Village.

The public records obtained from the armoury barrack, Doti

1. The copper plate of Arjun Malla dated 1480 Shake (1558 A.D.).

2. The copper plate of Rudra Shahi dated 1559 Shake (1637 A.D.).

3. The copper plate of Dip Shahi dated 1712 Shake (1790 A.D.).

4. The copper plate dated 16.. Shake (17..).

These copper plates are kept in side the temple of Gorakh Nath at the armourry barrack. Out side the temple there are two stone tablets.

1. The stone tablet dated 1901 B.S. (1844 A.D.)

2. The stone tablet dated 1904 B.S. (1847 A.D.)

The inscription on the stone tablet dated 1901 B.S. (1844 A.D.) refers to the construction of the court yard and the mansion during the administration of Daksha Shah. This barrack was previously famous as Gulma (battalion). In 2020 B.S. (1963 A.D.) it was converted into a Militia Barrack system. The army personnel stationed there currently is called the royal army.

The dates of the heavy guns at the Kot barrack

1. Sunday the 12th Baisakh in the waning moon of 1874 B.S. (June 1817 A.D.).

2. Tuesday Baisakh Vadi 6 in the waning moon of 1874 (June 1817 A.D.).

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3. The cannon of King Rana Bahadur dated 1854 B.S. (1707 A.D.) sent through Kokil Khawas of the Devidatta Company. There is an inscription on the temple of Gorakh Nath at the Kot barrack dated 1904 B.S. (1847 A.D.) stating that a road was built.

The temple of Shaileswari

The principal temple of Silgadhi, Doti, is the attractive temple of Shaileswari. The temple stands in the shadow of a cotton tree. There are 12 bells dedicated to the deity by different people.

The inscriptions on the bells

1. The inscription on the bell dated 8th Chaitra Sudi, 1839 Shake (March 1917 A.D.).
2. The inscription on the bell dated 1827 Shake (1905 A.D.).
3. The inscription on the bell dated 1975 B.S. (1918 A.D.).
4. The inscription on the bell dated Baisakh Sudi 3, 1895 B.S. (April 1838 A.d.).
5. The inscription on the bell dated the 13th Kartik, 1943 B.S. (October 1886 A.D.).
6. The inscription on the bell dated the full moon of 1980 B.S. (Octoberr 1923 A.D.).
7. The inscription on the bell dated the 8th day of Ashwin in the bright fortnight of 1941 B.S. (October 1884 A.D.).
8. The inscription on the bell dated the full moon of 1969 B.S. (October 1912 A.D.).
9. The inscription on the bell dated the third of Baisakh 1993 B.S. (April 1936 A.D.).
10. The inscription on the bell dated the full moon day of 1977 B.S. (April 1920).
11. The inscription on the bell dated the fifth day of the bright half in the month of Magh, 1975 B.S. (January 1918 A.D.).
12. The inscription, on the bell dated Kartik Sudi, 1954 B.S. (late October 1897 A.D.).

The inscriptions available on the environs of Shaileswari

1. The inscription of the Gita Library dated 1893 B.S. (1836 A.D.).
2. The inscription near the back steps of the temple of Shaileswari dated 2020 B.S. (1963 A.D.).
3. The inscription of the temple of Shaileswari dated 2035 B.S. (1978 A.D.)
4. The inscription of the Mukti Caravanserai dated 1963 B.S. (1906 A.D.)

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5. The inscription of the temple of the elephant-headed god dated 1996 B.S. (1939 A.D.).

6. The inscription on the reservoir dated 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.).

7. The inscription on the trident dated 1966 B.S. (1909 A.D.) in front of the temple of Shaileswar.

8. The inscription written in Ranjana Script dated 1828 Shake (1906 A.D.) on the stone above the bell behind the temple of Shaileswari.

Obtained from Uma Kant Bhatta, resident of Shil village, Doti

1. An old printed book dealing in Ayurvedic Medicine.

2. A manuscript of the school of Ramanuja, a dualistic philosopher.

3. A manuscript on Skanda Purana (cosmogony), together with in complete materials.

Obtained from Devi Bhakta Joshi, resident of the Shil village.

1. A manuscript dealing in astronomy.

Historical documents obtained from Ekraj Bhatta, headmaster, Padma Vocational Secondary School, Silgadhi, Doti

1. The document with the seal of Rajah Kirti Bahadur Simha made in favour of Raghu Nath Bhatta, the priest dated 193.....

2. A document dated Marga Vadi 1, 1941 B.S. (December 1884 A.D.) under seal of Lieutenant Colonel Prem Jung Rana providing remuneration to Gauri Shankar Bhatta, the priest, in respect of the ritual operation.

3. A document dated Kartik Vadi 1, 1942 B.S. (November 1885 A.D.) under seal of Lieutenant Colonel Prem Jung Rana confirming the operation of the rituals of the deity in favour of Gauri Shankar Bhatta, the priest.

4. The copy of the Lal Mohar of King Prithvi Bikram dated the full moon day of Ashwin, 1944 B.S. (October 1887 A.D.) providing maintenance (Mana Chamal) to Baldev Shahi.

5. The document dated Ashadh Vadi 4, 1979 (July 1922 A.D.) under seal of Chautaria (Royal Collateral) Pushkar Shah providing maintenance for Baldev Shah.

6. The document dated Ashwin Vadi 2, 1876 B.S. (October 1819 A.D.) under seal of Chautaria Bom Shah confirming the retention of land in favour of Pandit Bishwa Nath Upreti

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7. The document dated Chaitra Vadi, 1909 B.S. (April 1852 A.D.) under seal of Sardar Kanak Simha Mahat providing for the female slaves in favour of Raghu Nath Bhatta, the priest.

8. The voucher containing the items of expenditure in respect of the operation of the trust of Hanuman under seal of Kharidar Raghu Nath Joshi dated Phalgun Vadi 12, 1920 B.S. (February 1864 A.D.).

9. The document made in favour of Mahindra Mahar and Mane Mahar residents of the Punna village in respect of land dated Wednesday Magh Sudi 2, 1899 B.S. (January 1843 A.D.).

10. The voucher made by Subba Raghu Nath Joshi acknowledging the receipt of the items of expenditure of the Hanuman trust dated Thursday Chaitra Vadi 4, 1924 B.S. (March 1868 A.D.).

11. The document dated Sunday the first of Phalgun Sudi, 1940 B.S. (February 1882 A.D.) made by Lieutenant Colonel Upendra Bikram Rana in favour of Gauri Shankar Bhatta the priest in respect of the old transaction.

12. The note of Lieutenant Colonel Prem Jung Rana to Rajah Kirti Bahadur Simha of Thalari directing him to send the catalogue of the gold, the silver, the dress and the like in his custody dated Thursday Prathama Jesth Vadi 8, 1942 B.S. (June 1885 A.D.).

13. A letter of Lieutenant Colonel Upendra Bikram Rana summoning Gauri Shankar Bhatta, the priest to appear personally dated Wednesday Ashadh Sudi 13, 1943 B.S. (July 1886 A.D.).

14. The document made under seal of Major General Krishna Dhoj Kunwar Rana providing for operating the rituals of the deity and reciting holy book there in favour Raghu Nath Bhatta, the priest dated Sunday Kartik Vadi 2, 1918 B.S. (November 1861 A.D.).

15. The document made under seal of Commanding Colonel Tej Bahadur Rana confirming the office of the priest of Shila Devi in favour of Gauri Shankar Bhatta dated Thursday Phalgun Vadi 3, 1943 B.S. (February 1887 A.D.).

16. The document made under seal of Chautaria Jan Shah confirming the office of the priest of Shri Shila Devi in favour of Rameshwor Bhatta and Maheswar Bhatta dated Thursday Ashwin Sudi 7, 1884 B.S. (October 1827 A.D.).

17. The Lal Mohar of King Tribhuvan directing Chautaria Babar Jung to operate the trust of Shri Shila Devi by appointing the care-taker sweeping the premises of the rest-house there dated Wednesday Poush Vadi 6, 1993 B.S. (December 1936 A.D.).

18. The document under seal of Lieutenant Colonel Prem Jung Rana directing Gauri Shankar Bhatta the priest, to operate the traditional rituals of Shila Devi dated Saturday Kartik Sudi 7, 1942 B.S. (November 1885 A.D.).

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19. The document under seal of premier Jung Bahadur instructing Shum Sher Dhoj Kunwar Rana in respect of handling the slaves, male and female dated Wednesday Magh Sudi 9, 1923 B.S. (January 1867 A.D.).

20. The letter of Colonel Surath Jung Rana Bahadur addressing Rajah Kirti Bahadur Simha of Thalari to send the rough list of the employees subordinate to him dated Wednesday the 13th of Bhadra in the bright half of 1938 B.S. (September 1881 A.D.).

21. The document under seal of the contingent office of Doti Silgadhi confirming the office of the priest - Gauri Shankar Bhatta - the employee of Rajah Kirti Bahadur Simha of Thalari dated Saturday 12th Shrawan in the bright half of 1942 B.S. (August 1885 A.D.).

22. The document made by Lieutenant Kul Dhoj Thapa Chhetri acknowledging the receipt of lump sum usually paid by instalments dated Saturday the 7th Ashadh in the bright half of 1929 B.S. (August 1872 A.D.).

23. The document under seal of Dittha Thagi Khadka Chhetri providing loan for Gauri Shankar Bhatta, the priest dated Thursday Poush 14, 1951 B.S. (December 1894 A.S.).

24. The note made by the Dafter Khana of the Kalijung Ram Bhim Battalion directing Gauri Shankar Bhatta, the priest, in respect of delivering the sum to the state treasury dated Tuesday the 9th of Phalgun in the bright fortnight of 1927 B.S. (February 1871 A.D.).

25. The document acknowledging the receipt of contractual amount and revenue through Kirti Bahadur under seal of Lieutenant Kul Dhoj dated Thursday the 19th of Chaitra in the dark fortnight of 1927 B.S. (March 1870 A.D.).

26. The voucher acknowledging the receipt of the sum payable to the Kalijung Raj Bhim platoon in the custody of Kasi Nath Upadhya, the treasurer dated Thursday the first of Phalgun in the dark fortnight of 1926 B.S. (February 1870 A.D.).

27. The document of Chautaria Babar Jung Shah instructing Jamadar Gumani Kathayat and Murari Joshi to pay the fees to the priest of Shila Devi for its operational rituals dated Tuesday the full moon of Magh 1899 B.S. (January 1843 A.D.).

28. The document under seal of Chautaria Pushkar Shah providing remuneration to Narapati Kathayat, the tax-collector, beating the drum at the temple of Shila Devi dated Tuesday the 12th of Phalgun in the bright half of 1888 B.S. (February 1832 A.D.).

29. The document transferring the remuneration to the priest - Raghu Nath - by Ranjit Gosain and Shaliwan Gosain dated Thursday 9th Poush in the dark fort night of 1890 B.S. (December 1833 A.D.).

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Phulot Kadamandau

Phulot lies on the ward No. 2 of the Khirsena village. The historical and religious spot of the locality is Kadamandau. When one advances to the east from Doti, the Uditola Gadhi village is reached. When one ascends the hill by crossing the confluence of the Phulot stream and the Gaune stream, Dumrakot is reached. After taking a zig-zag course from the place, Chokot is reached. There lies the fort of the King of Bim Kot. then Kadamandau at Phulot under the jurisdiction of the Khirsen Village is reached. There the temples of Shajeswar, Laxmi Devi and Bhairav stand.

Obtained from Devi Lal Upadhyaya of Khirsen, Phulot

1. One charter (Sanad) relating to the expenditures of rituals dated 1998 B.S. (1941 A.D.).

2. The copy of the Lal Mohar (Royal Executive Order with the read seal) dated 1861 B.S. (1804 A.D.).

3. The copper plate dated 1209 Shake (1287 A.D.).

4. The copy of the document confirming the retention of the trust dated 1860 B.S. (1803 A.D.).

Obtained from Iswari Datta Joshi, resident of Khaptad near Kadamandau

1. One executive order of premier Jung Bahadur providing for running the postal system dated 30th Poush according to lunar calendar, 1925 B.S. (December 1868 A.D.).

2. The executive order of Ranoddip Simha confirming the operation of the rituals of Shri Malika Devi dated 1921 B.S. (1864 A.D.).

3. The copper plate of 1701 Shake (1779 A.D.).

Obtained from Karisaru of Dipayal, Doti

1. The copper plate of Bikram Shahi dated 1609 Shake (1687 A.D.).

Obtained from Dharma Simha Kathayat of the Punepata village, Doti

1. The copper plate of King Nirayapal dated 1234 Shake (1312 A.D.).

2. The copper plate of King Mandhata Shahi dated the 10th Magh in the bright fort night of 1630 Shake (1708 A.D.).

3. The confirmation deed made by premier Juddha Shumshere dated the 21st Magh, 1989 (January 1933 A.D.).

4. The document under sign of Chautaria Pushkar Shah appointing Narapati Kathayat the superintendent of the military depot and the group of villages

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(Garkha) dated the 11th of Ashwin in the dark fort night (Vadi) 1879 B.S. (October 1822 A.D.).

5. The royal executive order (Lal Mohar) of King Rajendra dated Kartik first in the dark fort night of 1880 B.S. (November 1823 A.D.) imposing the tax called Chumawan (on the occasion of the tonsure ceremony of the (King or Prince) on the tax- payers of Doti through the tax-collector.

6. The royal executive order (Lal Mohar) of King Rajendra dated Baisakh in the bright fort night of 1882 B.S. (April 1824 A.D.) appointing Sahadev Kathayat to the office of the book- keeper.

7. The executive order of King Rajendra dated the 12th Magh in the dark fort night of 1887 B.S. (January 1831 A.D.) providing rice for the remuneration of Narapati Kathayat.

8. The document bearing the signatures of two persons, issued by Chautaria Pushkar Shah in favour of Narapati Kathyat granting him a piece of land called Punepata dated the 4th of Poush in the dark fort night of 1887 B.S. (December 1830 A.D.).

9. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Marga Vade 10, 1892 B.S. (December 1837 A.D.) retaining the maintenance allowance to Narapati Kathayat and Ranajit Kathayat.

10. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Poush Sudi 12, 1892 B.S. (December 1835 A.D.) granting maintenance allowance to Narapati and Nandaram Kathayat.

11. The transfer deed of land made by Bishnu Simha in favour of Narapati Kathayat dated the 4th of Bhadra Sudi of 1890 B.S. (September 1833 A.D.).

12. The document under the signature of Kazi (Minister) Nara Simha Thapa empowering Narapati Kathayat with the administration of the district dated the 2nd of Phalgun Vadi, 1894 B.S. (February 1838 A.D.).

13. The document under the signature of Chautaria Babar Jung Shah providing Narapati Kathayat with the maintenance allowance out of the produce from the land to the west of the Bheri dated the 12th Ashadh Vadi, 1899 B.S. (July 1842 A.D.).

14. The document under the signature of Chautaria Babar Jung Shah retaining the contract and the land tax in favour of Narapati Kathayat dated the 13th of Baisakh Vadi 13, 1899 B.S. (April 1982 A.D.).

15. The executive order of King Rajendra dated the 7th of Chaitra Sudi, 1900 B.S. (March 1944 A.D.) retaining the piece of land called Punepata in favour of Narapati Kathayat.

16. The document under the signature of Chautaria Bhim Bikram Shah authorizing Narapati Kathayat to evict or give tenancy right to the tenants of state-owned land west of the Bheri dated the 5th of Jesth Vadi, 1903 B.S. (July 1846 A.D).

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17. The executive order of Major General Krishna Dhoj Kunwar Rana dated the 5th Baisakh Sudi, 1914 B.S. (April 1857 A.D.) directing the officer concerned to arrest the new employee of the military depot at Dipayal and deliver him physically.

18. The executive order issued by Rajah Kirti Bahadur Simha with the signatures of two persons authorising Birbal Kathayat to collect taxes levied upon the subjects on the accession of the King to the throne dated the first Baisakh Sudi, 1930 B.S. (April 1837 A.D.).

19. The document dated the 11th Bhadra Sudi, 1890 B.S. (September 1833 A.D.) relinquishing his title to the land held since Parvatya Aiheri, resident of the Umrada village.

20. The document of King Rajendra granting emoluments of a tax- collector allocated to Narapati Kathayat dated the 15th Ashwin, 1894 B.S. (October 1837 A.D.).

The copper plates obtained from Kamal Simha Kathayat, resident of ward No. 9, Saraswati Nagar village panchayat, the district of Doti

1. The copper plate of Krishna Shah dated Baisakh Sudi 20, 1605 Shake (May 1688 A.D.).

2. The copper plate of Dip Shah dated Phalgun 1705 Shake (February 1784 A.D.).

3. The copper plate of Mandhata Shahi dated the 12th Poush Vadi, 1679 Shake (December 1757 A.D.).

4. The copper plate of Mandhata Shahi dated the 13th Kartik Vadi, 1631 Shake (November 1709 A.D.).

The Siddheshwar Village Bandursen

This Bandursen situated at ward No. 9 of the Siddheshwar village. It lies on the extreme boundary of Doti. After passing through the Tikha village the river Seti is reached. The market place and the settlement are big. This place located between Doti and Dadeldhura is an old trade centre and as it is a historical place, public records are available aplenty.

The copper plates obtained from Thakkar Bahadur of Bandursen

1. The copper plate dated the 6th Poush Sudi, 1598 B.S. (December 1541 A.D.).

2. The copper plate dated the 6th Magh Vadi, 1575 B.S. (January 1519 A.S.).

3. The copper plate of Marga Sudi, 1707 Shake (November 1785 A.D.).

4. The copper plate dated Baisakh Sudi, ... Shake (April .... A.D.).

5. The copper plate of Marga Krishna 1, 1587 Shake (November 1585 A.D.).

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6. The copper plate dated the 5th of Poush Sudi, 1721 Shake (December 1799 A.D.).

7. The copper plate dated Marga 1585 Shake (November 1663 A.D.).

8. The copper plate dated the 14th of Kartik Sudi, 1531 Shake (October 1609 A.D.).

9. The copper plate of Kartik 1538 Shake (1616 A.D.).

Obtained from Ram Chandra Dhurbarathi Rupakheti, Bandurasen

1. The copper plate of King Surendra dated 1934 B.S. waiving punishment for committing offences not exceeding 7.

2. The copper plate of King Surendra dated 1934 B.S. (1877 A.D.) providing for operating the rituals of Kalika.

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The District of Bajura

It is one of the hilly districts of the Seti Zone under the remote western development region. The headquarters of this district is Kuladevmandau within the village Tante (Martadi). This district lies on about 23079 feet above the sea level. The district is bounded on the east by Mugu and Kalikot, Bajhang on the west, Humla on the north and on the south are the districts of Doti and Achham. For want of transport facilities, this district is considered one of the inaccessible districts. There are, though good roads linking the neighbouring districts are not there for transport, good roads admittedly for transport throughout the district. The most appropriate and nearest district for transport is Achham. As the air service is available at the Sanphe Bagar of the Achham district, people generally from the inaccessible places go to Sanphe Bagar and travel back and forth to Achham, Bajura, Doti, Kailali and as far as Kanchanpur. It takes two day's journey from Sanphe Bagar to reach Tante, the headquarters of Bajura. Though this route is most important and frequented, this route remains closed during the rainy season as the Ekad stream flowing through the boundary of the district of Bajura has no bridge. In addition to it, the other routes originating from the district headquarters of Bajura-Tante and extending to Bajhang and Chainpur is considered appropriate. As far as the means of communications is considered, postal system and wireless are major.

The district headquarters of Doti used to carry out the administration of the Bajura region recently. There are 22 village assemblies in the district. This region was the domain of the Khasia Mallas from the 10th to the 14th century. In ancient time this region was known as Bajru. There is a tradition that Bajura is the corrupted form of Bajru. the copper plates issued by King Abhaya Malla dated 1298 Shake (1376 A.D.) and 1305 Shake (1383 A.D.) have called this region Bajurung for the first time. Additional information on the basis of recent studies of many contemporary records where Bajhang was called "Bajrang" and Achham "Asmambu" has thrown much light on the new nomemclatures. It is evident that the term Bajura is very old as Bajrung was called thereafter in the copper plates issued in 1368 Shake (1486 A.D.) and 1432 Shake (1510 A.D.) by the then Kings Shakti Simha and Kalyan Simha.

In the medieval age after the downfall of the Khasia Mallas, Prince Duggar Simha founded the independent Kingdom of Bajura. During the unification of Nepal, as soon as the Nepalese army crossed the Karnali river, the Kings of Bajhang and Bajura agreed to be the vassel kings of Nepal. That was the reason why the Nepali army had not to assault upon Bajura.

Prior to the unification of Nepal, history agrees on this point that this Kingdom formed a constituent part of the twenty-two kingdoms. It is recorded in the history of Khaptad that Kazi Balawant Thapa of Khaptad, successor to the kingdom of Khaptad, approached King Indra Simha of Bajhang and supplicated him for his youngest son Duggar Simha and made him the King of Katuwal Kot located at Kuldevmandau and re-christianed Katuwal Kot as Duggar Kot and this version is recorded in the chronicle of Bajunyal Shahi. According to the evidence available, Duggar Simha ascended the throne of Katuwal Kot in 1732 B.S. 1675 A.D.). The favourable situation during the period of the unification of Nepal makes us presume that the external defence of the

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contemporary kingdom of Bajura was handled by Bajhang. When Prince Bahadur Shah, the regent, in the context of unification, deputed Captain Golaiya and Captain Rana Bir Khatri for negotiation, the then King of Bajura was Anantpal and Samudra Simha of Bajhang. It can be easily assumed the alignment of the kingdom of Bajura from the fact that this kingdom did not align itself with King Sudip Shah of contemporary Doti and allied itself with the King of Bajhang - Samudra Simha and the descendant of Anantpal held the hereditary office of the Rajah upto 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.) and it further supports this assumtion.

There is no evidence to prove that this fiefdom, though existed as a principality upto 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.) had any law court, revenue office, district office and similar offices. The principality was empowered to collect minimal revenue and other taxes as defined by the central government. After delivering the stipulated sum to the central government, the principality was entitled to enjoy the residue of the sum so collected. The Rajah of the principality had his own detention camp to torture those tenants failing to deliver the dues as demanded by the Rajah, according to information available, there is a popular belief among the people that the people being oppressed and suppressed by the local king were agitated so much so that they went to the temple of the local deity to pray for justice. There is no written evidence like the ledger books of the kingdom.

After 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.) when the administrative reorganisation of the kingdom of Nepal was conducted, 75 districts were constituted, and Bajura is one of such districts. This district which was founded and enjoyed by the powerful neighbour as its domain for years did not seem to have maintained any written official records even when it enjoyed the status of a principality and for this reason the possibility of procuring in an institutional manner historical materials seems remote.

The historical source materials available read like these

The stone inscription of Koltiphulbari and the relics of Danigaunda

Kolti Kunadara located to the east of the district of Bajura is considered considerably developed from the view point of history, culture and archaeology. The better known part of this sub district is called Kolti Danigaunda and from the commercial view point as well it has acquired good reputation. Near the garden of that Phulbari, there is an inscription inscribed on the stone together with archaeological remains. The inscription is in obvious Devanagari script. This inscription is dated 1200 Shake (1278 A.D.). There are two almost identical inscriptions one at Gotri Bihar Hill and the other at Kapridhara seemingly supplementary to the previous inscription. These inscription on belonged to Akshaya Malla, the Khasa King. Such inscription with the date was recovered at panch deval located at Vinayak in the district of Achham and has been publicised by the Department of Archaeology. According to the popular belief and legend, the palace of King Akshaya Malla was located some where at any place of Achham - Vinayak and Bajura - Kolti Danigaunda. These things lend support to the tradition. As a matter of fact, the remains at Danigaunda are still worth-excavating and studying.

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Two gold plates dated 1258-1259 Shake (1336-1337 A.D.) indicating the existence of Jugada Piu Thurpu military cantonment

There is a single gold plate with two dates throwing anthentic light on the medieval Nepal. Though it is dubbed a gold plate, it is in fact a copper plate. Both these inscriptions were got written at the interval of six months by King Punya Malla when he resolved to donate land to Jayakar Pandit on the occasion of the solar eclipse. The gift deed was scribed by Golhan Joshi (Golu Neupane). The instrument of transfer contains, such standard Sanskrit expressions as free from the evil effects of the sun and the moon, the king red like the disc of the sun by the planet Rahu and Piutharpu free from all impediments like the royal taxes and fortifications.

Later on Piutharpu was recognised as a principality. History has agreed on this point that the descendants of Jayakar Pandit and Jasu Karki were the feudal lords of that principality. Currently one branch of the genealogical tree of Jayakar Pandit survives at Jagada and speaks Rajwar and another branch migrated to Udayapur of Piuthan and ruled there for generations. History is a witness to that on the basis of these facts that lights on the historical fact of the relationship between Piutharpu or the principality of Jugada and Bajura may be thrown.

These gold plates have been referred to in the Itihas Prakash (lights on history), the Star of Seti (Seti Ka Tara) and the travels of King Gaganiraj. The original work is in the custody of Dil Bahadur Hamal, resident of Piutharpu Jugada at Rajwar. As this work is open to all desirous of studying the material, further research through this may be conducted.

The Management of Fair and Rituals of Badi Malika

The operation of the rituals and management of the fair of Badi Malika of the sources that can contribute as far as possible to the medieval history of the western Nepal, the operation of the rituals and management of the fair of Badi Malika is one. It would not be an over statement if we dub this as the Karnali Zone wide fair. In respect of the task of research of the Bajura district, the information of the management of this fair contributes a lot because this holy place called Badi Malika is the shrine of Mallikarjun famous in the cosmogony (purana). This shrine is famous throughout the country and beyond. It is the shrine dedicated to the cult of female deity (Shakti). Its eastern shrine or at the top of Gophur Malika there is a locality called Nachanthali under the Kailashmandu Village of the Bajura district about three thousand feet below to the west. This shrine of the female deity located in the Himalaya named Panchpuri Patan lies about 16,000 feet above the sea level so that it is not possible to operate the daily rituals, of the deity and Nachanthali, for all practical purposes, has the stone house of this female deity's shrine. For this purpose the residence of the principal priest as well as two assistant priests has been within the district of Bajura traditionally on the special occasions, the sacrificer who conducts routine rituals and the hanger-on (Dlinpaure) live elsewhere.

There is the popular belief that Badi Malika is the manifestation of the primal deity. The origin of the establishment of the image of the deity is shrouded in mystery. The copper plates relating to the operation of the rituals of the deity, the management of the fair and the like, the written documentary evidences like the Lal Mohars, the

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musical band attached to the deity, a mace, the bell, the ceremonial jar and innumerable other vessels, mounts like the horses, the catalogue of the land dedicated to the trust, the income, its balance sheet and the assessment of its assets are kept in the custody of the store-keeper of the Nachanthali (the assistant priest), the principal priest and the tax-collector of Pandavsaina (the assistant priest). A fair on a grand scale is held every year on the full moon day of Shrawan (August) in honour of Badi Malika.

Though it may be presumed from the assessment of the available materials in the absence of historical evidence and sources, the villages and settlements within the district of Bajura are found to be very old and important from the view point of history. These essential ingredients in the sources of the Bajura district become indispensible.

1. Rajawar Dil Bahadur Hamal: Bajura Jugada.
2. Gopal Nath Bhat: Napra Mushyalbada, Brahma Tola.
3. Purnanand Padhya Timilsina principal priest: the Paiya village.
4. Ramchandra Padhya Timilsina, assistant priest: Brikhasaina Kolti.
5. Mastamandu Taligothimasto: Gothigad.
6. Chitra Bahadur Bist: Dhadakot.
7. Dip Bahadur Shahi and Motikhar Khadal: the Gotri village.
8. Nara Jung Shahi: Jukot.
9. Padma Bahadur Shah, former member, National Assembly: Barabise Simgada.
10. Mr. Nara Simha Giri, sitting member, National Assembly: Kailash Mandau, Nachanthali.
11. Rajawar Ambar Bahadur Simha: Kundikot, Brahma Tola.
12. Chhatra Bahadur Shah (former district Chairman): Tate.
13. Dittha Nnand Bahadur Shah: Tapra Brahma Tola.
14. Lal Mati Padhya Timilsina, store-keeper of Nachanthali and assistant priest of Badi Malika - Belkatiya.
15. Surya Giri (former Vice-Chairman of the district): Kalti, Damigaunda.
16. Shri Prasad Regmi, Devi Prasad Regmi: Kolti Danigaunda.

Introductory particulars of the historical source

Rajawar Dil Bahadur Hamal: Bajura Jugada.

The gold plate as referred to above issued by emperor Punya Malla in favour of Jayakar Pandit and the settlement of the Hamals as the descendants of Jasu Karki, the

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feudal lord of the principality of Jugada are still there. The locality has direct links with many events of the medieval period.

As Mr. Hamal is an active politician and guardian of historical treasure, many executive orders, Lal Mohars, charters, rules and regulations and other documents are expected from him. Together with the medieval period of Piutharpu - the remains of the royal palace of Jaguda, no persons approaching Mr. Hamal who carries with him the apt information about the majority of facts relating thereto and who is used to helping liberally those coming to him with the express purpose of historical research would return disappointed from him. He is ever ready to help the scholars, fellow-workers and studious researcher appreciative of his lore. From him the study of two gold plates included in a single copper plate can be made.

Gopi Nath Bhat: Bapra Musyalwada - Brahmatola

Mr. Gopinath Bhat, a former land owner, village headman, rent- collector, educated, encyclopedic in his memories of historical events, articulate, Brahmin of the Bhat family and descendant of Saichu Bhat, is a fundamentally in possession of innumerable historical documents of these, he is in possession of a copper plate dated 1305 Shake (1383 A.D.) of emperor Abhaya Malla with the meaningful clause "at the time when the king of Segpuri was residing at Udampuri". As the copper plate contains the decisive phrase like "the son of the daughter of king Abhaya Malla", it has specific importance of helping pass through many a check point of doubt of medieval history, including the condition of the contemporary Khas empire.

Besides this copper plate, Mr. Bhat has collected, preserved and protected many Lal Mohars, charters, regulations, record books, chronicles and the like. As he is habituated to satisfying the needs of the scholars approaching him on their study-cum-research mission, full utilisation of the materials with him can be made when the circumstances demand.

Purnanand Padhya Timilsina, the principal priest: The Paiya village:

The term principal priest shall mean the principal major priest of Badi Malika Devi or the shrine of the female deity. There are many assistant priests subordinate to him. This shrine of Badi Malika Devi located at the height of 16,000 feet above the sea level is a holy place dedicated to the female deity is famous in history.

In the cosmogonies the Karnali river is called Chandra Bhaga and Badi Malika the holy place of Malikarjun dedicated to the female deity. It is popularly called Badi Malika because on the high summits of the nearby Himalaya there are many famous satellite shrines like Satchula Malika, Bhurichula Malika, Nag Malika, Panchasi Malika, Nachanthali Malika and Thini Kote Malika and the like. There are many traditions current in respect of its origin. Comprehensive study-cum-research shall be conducted on the subject in future.

On the basis of the popular practice, it may be surmised that the identity of Badi Malika in the fourteenth century was well- established as it is now. Many contemporary events related to the state administration of the kingdom might have some relationship with Malika Devi. Accordingly, there is sufficient reason to believe

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that the ancestors of the current priests were also priests in those days. The priest feels it difficult to produce documents in evidence for getting these documents at an opportune time scrutinised for fear of divine wrath or open the store-room for general study. According to his version without the command of Bhagawati, the primal deity, the copper plates, written pieces of evidence, the mace, the musical instruments, the parasal, the yak tail and the like, the ritual vessels, images, utensils and other materials related to the operation of the deity, if exposed to the public eyes disregarding consequences or if shown for study would bring about calamity among the populace. For fear of mental agony and terror, they are loathe to expose them.

Upto Larkha Garkha Sen, the copper plates, numbering 5 or 7 relating to the trust and the operational provisions of the rituals of the deity are in the custody of the store-keeper at the Nachanthali store and countless others are safely deposited with the principal priest. According to the local rumour, he has in his custody the copper plates of emperor Aditya Malla dated 1240-1241 Shake (1318-1319 A.D.) and Abhaya Malla dated 1296-1297 Shake (1374-1375 A.D.) and many others made by different kings and princes for operating the rituals of the deity, its trust, rent-free holdings, alms-giving donation deeds and so on. There may be slight differences here and there but we cannot brand it baseless by casting doubt on the accuracy of statement.

The copper plates, Lal Mohars, regulations, executive orders, charters, rules and regulations and many other historical documents are available aplenty. As this place is the centre of religious faith and belief throughout the territory and the region, the presence of the royal army of two areas in the presence of chief district officers is mandatory to date. Currently the district of Bajura is conducting supervision in a special manner.

The provisions of many priests, esoterica practicers, reciters of the vedic hymns and the sacrificers are traditionally made on the hereditary basis, on the basis of these facts, it would not be a surprise in any case to claim that the principal priest of Badi Malika is undoubtedly a guardian of rich historical documents.

Ram Chandra Padhya, assistant priest: Kolti Brikhasain

Though this gentleman is called assistant priest on a hereditary basis, there is no evidence to show that the operation of the rituals of the deity are operated by the members of his family. His forefather was appointed the rent-collector of the fertile land near Pandusain of the Kunnara sub-district. He was authorised by the contemporary ruler to collect rent of the trust land, cause the rent of the land to be collected. These activities are still operative. According to the claim of Ram Chandra Padhya the copper plate issued by the Sijapati King involving him (the original donee) in the operation of the rituals of Badi Malika was delivered to the local deity - Taligostimasto - with a view to obtaining justice from the deity. But he was kind enough to let us per use three or four Lal Mohars and executive orders. He has a collection of plenty of documents considered important from the history and the study of the chronicles of the kings. He conducts excellent public relations with those coming in contact with him with the express purpose of study and research and contributes to the fulfilment of the objectives by extending cooperation to the utmost on his own.

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Mastamandau Taligothimasto: Gothigad

Interesting lines on this issue are studied. It is neither a rumour nor an exaggerated statement. It is a religious and cultural convention based on popular practice. Together with it, it is a bitter truth that has come to the popular knowledge. A very interesting and sensitive example in respect of the role of Masto in the administration of popular justice can be written and studied here. Many of the known people, institutions and individuals dedicated to service to the popular practice when the local gentry and local officials deny them justice or when they are appressed and suppressed by them or harassed by them through their callous attitude and unable to get emancipation or if they are not satisfied with the justice meted out to them by the offices or the law courts, the Mahakali in the west to the Kali Gandaki in the east who know the functioning of the judicial process there went to the shrine of Taligothi Masto with all the pieces of evidence in their defence. In other words they went to file appeal there. The popular faith in the administration of justice meted to the public who approached the priest for redressing their grievances might have been caused by the delivery of judgement of the priest of the deity who, complying with all the legal formalities, summoned the plaintiff and the defendant, conducted appropriate proceedings and come to the decision. This procedure might have caused his reputation as an impartial judge spread far and wide. Any person desirous of knowing the contents of the copper plates, Lal Mohars, donation deeds, executive orders, regulations, deeds meant for charitable purposes, partition deeds, letters, hand notes and the like in the possession of the priest is warmly received at Taligothi Masto.

This deity of Taligothi has been popularly regarded as self- manifesting and the traditional judge. For that reason pieces of evidence forwarded to the deity are still preserved there, including rare historical treasure, but the priest of Masto does not let these materials to be studied, copied or photographed so that historical and cultural researchers feel dissatisfied and gramble. As the impact of the deity is evident and the popular attitude to the deity is well-established and unquestioned belief in the deity is ever present, no person to date has been known audacious enough to evaluate or comment on the issue.

Chitra Bahadur Bista: Dhada Kot

To the sub-district of Kunna Dara there lies the ancient village of Dhadakot, a well-known locality. Mr. Chitra Bahadur Bista, mature in age and wisdom, resident of the village associated with the origin of the historical Chhatikot - Chhatyal genealogy, is a district level social worker and respectable person in the locality. His service is not limited to politics and social service, but is actively interested in historical materials and their preservation.

He has been making cooperating with the scholars coming to him on their study-cum-research mission and the government officials by creating appropriate environment and making people aware of the value of the historical materials lying in an inorganised manner throughout the district in general and his own neighbourhood in particular and of the copper plates in possession of the private individuals, Lal Mohar, the documents made under the seal of former fendal lords (Shyaha Mohar), executive orders, old manuscripts, genealogy, the writings on the metal sheets and many other historical documents and he is taking measures against their misappropriation.

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Dip Bahadur Shahi and Matikhar Khadyal: the Gotri Village

Mr. Dip Bahadur Shahi, resident of the south-east Bajura, is a social activist and guardian of historical materials.

The local populace who doggedly follow him and do nothing without reference to him are in possession of innumerable copper plates, writings on the metal sheets, birch (bhurja patra), manuscripts, Lal Mohars, the documents under seal of feudal lords, executive orders, rules and regulations, charters and the like. Mr. Motikhar Khadyal (Neupane), resident of the Tirth village has 3 copper plates. Similarly the Gotri Bihar Hill has the historical grave, a Buddhist monastery and the remains of the temples and there is also a stone tablet lying unprotected. Besides these, under the main tract across the Thado Khola, there is a stela of the date referred to above. For the study and perusal of these materials, the cooperation of Mr. Dip Bahadur Shahi and Mr. Motikhar Khadyal is available.

Narajung Shahi: Jukot

Prior to 2037 B.S. (1980 A.D.) some villages to the east of the Karnali like Jukot, Satpata, Wai, Jera and the like were within the Karnali zone under the Kalikot district. Currently these villages are within the Bajura district of the Seti zone. Mr. Narajung Shahi, once the (Chief village assembly), member, district assembly, Jumla and Chairman, "Go To Village National Campaign" Karnali Zonal Committee, is currently the nominated Chairman of the Remote Area Development Committee. He has in his possession three pieces of copper plates, some executive orders, Lal Mohars (the documents under seal of the feudal lords), allowance for maintenance (mana chamal), provisions for usage and restriction, documents relating to the trust lands, some old manuscripts, chronicles and other authentic materials. He is very social with those who approach him on their study mission and seek his appreciative cooperation and he extends personally appropriate cooperation and accompanies the study-cum-research worker.

Padma Bahadur Shah, former member, National Assembly: Sigada Barabise

Mr. Padma Bahadur Shah, once time, representing the district of Bajura in the National Assembly and once member; Go-to-Village National Campaign district committee, Bajura chapter, has earned good reputation and prestige in the eyes of the constituency. He has some documents relating to the unification of Nepal and maintenance allowance. He has the knowledge of two copper plates and one stone tablet. As he has good influence over the villagers in possession of the historical materials, he uses his good offices and personally extends his cooperation to those relating to study-cum-research.

Nara Simha Giri, Member, National Assembly: Kailashmandau, Nachanthali

Mr. Nara Simha Giri, associated with various socio-political activities from the grassroots level of the rural life, is deeply involved in the constructive works of the Bajura district. He is soft spoken, service-oriented and ever ready for the district level developmental activities. He is familiar with all matters of the district, however minor they may be. As he is a fervent nationalist by inclination, he is interested in the

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collection of historical materials as expected and is equally interested in these. He has a collection of some Lal Mohars and old documents. Besides these, as he has earned the good will and confidence of the people of Chhatara, the southern side of the Bajura district, it seems mandatory to acquire assistance from Mr. Giri, National Assembly member, to study historical materials of those gentlemen who have collected these. Together with these, as he is settled at Nachanthali (the eastern shrine of Badi Malika Bhagawati), it is but sensible to expect these from him.

Ambar Bahadur Simha, the feudal lord (Rajwar) Kundakot Brahmatola

About one hundred years ago, Kundikot was detached from the kingdom of Bajura as a result of partition. The feudal lord thus detached from his office used to get maintenance allowance as late is 1960 A.D. Among the recipients of such allowances, the feudal lord of Kundikot like that of Jugada used to obtain them separately from the principality of Bajura. the relationship of the feudal lord of Jugada with the ruling dynasty of the medieval period has been dealt with at the appropriate place. They were of pandit clan but they are currently Hamals. The feudal lord of Kundikot has sprung up from the family of Bajunyal Simha. There is still a stela remaining undeciphered at Kundikot. It is rumoured in addition to it that Mr. Ambar Bahadur Simha has a copper plate issued during the Khasa empire. Many people of Bajunyal claim that he has many Lal Mohars, executive orders of the period when the unification process was going on as well as a copper plate issued by King Mandir Shah of Bajura. Being a peripatetic person, he often goes down to the Tarai and comes back to the hill, and by nature he is migratory and it is difficult to meet him. This gentleman, if available at home, is expected to extend appropriate help.

Chhatra Bahadur Shah: Tante

According to the report of the local gentry, Chhatra Bahadur Shah who was fortunate to be with Rajah Gajendra Shah in his terminal days had ample medieval historical materials. There are many eye witnesses as well as hearsay evidence that he has opened his archives at appropriate time to those concerned with his Lal Mohars and other pieces of documentary evidence for their perusal and study. As he is oriented to collection of historical and cultural materials and inclined by nature helping, as much as possible those approaching him on such business, cooperation from him as situation warrants is expected.

Dittha Nara Bahadur Shah: Tapra-Brahmatola

Dittha (judge) Nara Bahadur Shah, who is familiar to a great extent with local historical events as well as the past, has some old Lal Mohars and treaties. Such pieces of evidence can be studied and appropriate cooperation as required can be expected from him.

Lal Mani Padhya Timilsina, the store-keeper of Nachanthali and assistant priest of Badi Malika: Belkatiya

From the relevant paragraph of the chapter it was known that the main priest of Badi Malika is Purnanand Padhya Timilsina and the assistant priest Ram Chandra Padhya Timilsina. As the summit is usually snow-capped for ten months, the valuable

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ornaments, vessels and the mace dedicated to the service of Badi Malika are collected, protected and preserved at Nachanthali. That is why Nachanthali is appropriately called the eastern wing of Badi Malika. There is reason to believe that the forefathers of Lal Mani Padhya, the priest, were traditionally appointed for operating the rituals of Nachanthali and the protection of the assets of the deity. That is why it is difficult currently to make an assessment of the inventory of the materials deposited with the Nachanthali store like the copper plates, maces, Lal Mohars, executive orders, rules and regulations, public records, musical instruments, vessels etc. In addition to these, the principal weakness to get these materials maintained in an organised manner occasioned by ignorance and bigotism is a failure and poses a question mark. Therefore it seems urgent that a long-term project estimate to cause these materials organised and execute appropriate measures therefor. He has in his possession at his own residence at Belkatiya two copper plates having relationship with him, some Lal Mohars and some other documents worth-researching on. Many pieces of evidence have already been published in Itihas Prakas (lights on history). Seti Anchal Digdarshan (Seti Zonal Manual) and the like. The documents and pieces of evidence that can be preserved on an individual basis under the preservation and supervision of the chief store-keeper of Nachanthali can be studied and researched as situation warrants. But the role of Nara Simha Giri, National Panchayat member, is expectedly dominant. the daily ritualistic management of Nachanthali and the residence of the priest, however, being in opposite direction to find the appropriate time is elusive.

Surya Giri, Kolti-Danigauda

Mr. Surya Giri, old resident of the locally well-known family can contribute more than expected to the preservation of historical source of the Bajura district. His forefathers had been associated with Chandan Nath since his entrance there as priests and abbots and it would not an over statement to dub them the living specimen of the historical source. Together with these, as they are, directly or indirectly, involved in the management of the ritualistic operations of the historical shrine of Taligothi Masto, it is but natural that they are in possession of considerable amount of ancient documents and pieces of evidence.

The feet-mark of Saint (Siddha) Chandan Nath is worshipped at the temple of Chandan Nath based at Kolti. As to the entrance of Saint Chandan Nath, the local tradition runs like this. In ancient time Saint Chandan Nath with his disciples had come from Kashmir and settled at Kolti. In those days the practice of human sacrifice was prevalent there. that is why he settled there and stopped the evil practice. In course of time the capital of Sinja was transferred from Kalti Nagar to a point in the east and the base of operation of Saint Chandan Nath was shifted to Jumla. After that, the practice of worshipping the feet of the Saint came in vogue.

The version of the people of Jumla does not agree to it. The popular belief is Saint Chandan Nath came straight from Kashmir and taught the people of Jumla how to cultivate paddy. It is not clear whether Saint Chandan Nath came straight from Kashmir to Jumla or he shifted to Jumla from his inter luring base elsewhere. That is why it can be denied that the temple of Saint Chandan Nath located at Kolti, Bajura and the conflicting versions relating there to would help contribute to arrive at the truth.

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Shri Prasad Regmi, Devi Prasad Regmi: Kolti Danigauda

Shri Prasad Regmi and Devi Prasad Regmi, well-known figures of Danigauda as priests are the hereditary priests of Bhagawati temple located at Danigauda, Kolti. The grand temple of Bhagawati does not exist now, but the artistic stone work employed in the walls of the temple, columns, tympanums, the base of the ceremonial jar, 32 leafed lotus petals, finial and the like constructive materials are scattered on the slope. Presumably most of the materials remain buried at Gothigada. As stone and clay have been employed on the Quadrangular architectural design based on the foundation, architecture can be studied. As the inscription is rubbed off, it is difficult to establish the period of the artistic creation yet on the basis of contemplating of the sculptural architecture and style, the temple of Chandan Nath at Kolti and the assembly hall seems to be very much similar. There is a tradition that all architectural feets belonged to the period of King Samudra Malla. The inscription of Phulvari, Kolti, belonged to King Abhaya Malla.

It is not known when the ancestors of these Regmi's came to this place or where they came from. But there is a copper plate dated 1298 Shake (1378 A.D.) donating fertile land as rent-free holding (birta) to the ancestor of Shri Prasad Regmi by Emperor Abhaya Malla and appointing him to the office of the priest of Bhagawati, Danigauda for operating its routine rituals.

In accordance with that appointment, King Yasobrahma Raya of Bajhang, Kalyan Simha and Jitari Simha confirmed the office through cooper plates together with that of King Mandir Shah of Bajura, Mr. Regmi had five copper plates. In addition to these, he has in his possession one executive order of Kazi Ambar Simha, the executive orders under the signatures of Rajah Jaya Prithvi Bahadur Simha, Bikram Bahadur Simha and Rajah Bhupendra Simha together with one Lal Mohar of King Rana Bahadur old images and ancient documents aplenty. According to the version of the local knowledgeable source, the temple of Bhagawati had fallen down due to acts of God some fifty years ago. The members of the Regmi family have been extending appropriate cooperation to those who come to them on their study-cum-research project.

Some miscellaneous sources

As the guardians of the historical source of the Bajura district, the roles of these people are note-worthy-Mana Bahadur Rawat of Chaukhamba Birakhamba, Lal Bahadur Khati of Budhakot, Bhawani Shankar Thapa, Rajatoli Pandit and Wang Prabhu Raj Pandit of Tante, Mana Bahadur of Sateda, Bhushya Rawal of Manakot, Balaram Karki of Kolti, Dharma Bahadur Simha of Pandusain, Nara Bahadur Simha of Narakot, Gorakh Bahadur Malla of Chhatikot, Giri Raj Bista of Kindi, Hawaldar Nara Bahadur Shahi and Rana Bahadur Adhikari of Bandhu, Narabir Budha of the Wai village and other gentlemen of the district have in their custody very ancient documents, historical materials and knowledge.

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The District of Achham

The district of Achham is one of the hill districts in the Seti Zone under the far western developmental sectors. Mangal Sena is the headquarters of the district. This district lies at the altitude of 4000 feet (1200 metres) to 7000 feet (2134 metres). The district is bounded by Dailekh and Kalikot in the east, Doti in the west, Bajura in the north and the district of Surkhet joins the district in the south. From the view point of transport, this district is seemingly backward to a considerable degree. Of the foot trails to reach the headquarters of the Achham district, one is to trek from Rajapur of Bardia through Chisapani and the district headquarters - Mangal Sena - is reached. In the same way the other trekking routes to reach Mangal Sena are from Dhangadi to Doti via Bayalpata, from Kailali via Chimala by crossing the Seti at Lodaghat and from Doti Dadeldhura to reach Achham. Whichever route is taken, it takes 7 to 8 days to reach the district headquarters. During the raining season the much-frequented route back and forth is usually from Doti Silgadi and in the winter the routes through Rajapur and Chimala are much frequented. During the winter even air service is available here. The air-field of Sanphe Bagar on the bank of the Budhiganga lies at a distance of ten miles from Mangal Sena, the district headquarters. In respect of communication service, the wireless station based at the headquarters can establish direct links with Kathmandu, Doti, Dhangadi, Bajhang and Bajura district. Together with these, the services of the sub-post office and the additional post office is also available. This district has 54 village assemblies. Before the unification of Nepal, it was one of the 22 principalities. After its merger with the kingdom of Nepal one half of its administration was run by the Dailekh headquarters and the other half by the Doti administration. When the kingdom of Nepal was divided into 14 zones and 75 districts, its identify as a district was established yet out of 800 sub-districts of Achham, the major sub-districts were merged with Doti.

The ancient name of Achham was Achhambha. During the medieval period when the Khasia Malla in the western Nepal exercised authority over there, this area went under the suzerneinty of the feudal lord of the Khasia Malla. According to prevalent genealogy, the kings of Soma dynasty were the uninterrupted rulers. During the unification operation of Nepal, the Gorkha troops under the command of Captain Golaiyan and Ranabir Khatri conquered Achham and Doti in 1847 B.S. (1790 A.D.) and King Dev Chandra of Achham abandoned Doti and took shelter elsewhere.

The inscription of King Akshaya Malla dated 1202 Shake (1380 A.D.) based at Panchdeval located at Binayak in the eastern Achham was recovered and has been published. According to that it is felt that it would be easier to depict the picture of the conditions of Achham about 700 years before. After that some inscriptions dated 1296-1297 Shake (1374-1375 A.D.) belonging to the period of King Abhaya Malla with dates and places were recovered. So it would be profitable to study these inscriptions by dividing them period-wise to arrive an easy solution. For example on the basis of inscriptions dating from 1192 to 1208 Shake (1270 to 1286 A.D.) it has become obvious that the contemporary ruler of Achham and Dailekh was King Abhaya Malla.

Some monuments help us understand that the Achham region that is Budhithat was in an advanced stage during the medieval period when Emperor Prithvi Malla was

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ruling. Such monuments with inscriptions, are found at the ponds, temples, columns, Panchdevals (a group of five temples) and the like of Kuchigaon Binayak, Muligaon, Ghodasain, Jayagadh, Darna and Seragaon. After that the copper plates issued by Emperor Akshaya Malla are available at Guhelapani, Ghugharkot, Darna, Kalagaon, Bajgaon, Dungala, Muligaon, Devkot, Barala, Bhamakot and the like. such memorials are also available at Bannigadhi, Panchangigaon and the environs of Mastamandu. All these pieces of evidence help us understand the medieval condition of Achham.

There is no direct evidence to identify the time of Dev Chandra Samal. On the basis of corroborative evidence the date 1172 B.S. (1195 A.D.) may be established. After that some inscriptions dated 1411 B.S. (1354 A.D.) of King Yasobrahma Shah born in the 30th generation of King Dev Chandra Samal and one copper plate each of Medinibrahma related to him as his grandson and Udayabrahma are available.

At the time of the unification of Nepal, the Samal Shahi's were disunited and Achham was divided into nine principalities - Dankot, Chaikot, Bunkot, Motipur, Darna, Mangal Sen, Panchang, Sheradhmali and Tadigaihra and total anarchy reigned there. Besides this factor, other principalities except Darna opposed the unification process and did not extend cooperation. They hatched many conspiracies staged insurrection and harassed in many ways the unification force. Only the ruler of Darna - Swarup Shahi assisted the Gorkha troops to the utmost. That is why all the feudal lords of Achham were removed and only the ruler of Darna got the status of a principality. Such was the situation in the medieval period.

Following the unification of Nepal, the Achham territory west to the Kailash stream except the principality of Darna was merged with Doti and this administrative unit was called Doti Achham. The Achham territory to the east of the Kailash stream was merged with the administrative unit of Dailekh. In this way after the unification of Nepal only Darna remained sentimental representation of Achham. The real identity of Achham was, however, lost for ever.

The identity of Achham lost after the unification of Nepal was resurrected by the Rana Administration. The process began like this: history bears witness to the truth of the statement that the Kunwars of the Hichma village situated in the lower Bhainselo sub-district (dara) of Achham through their enlistment in the Gorkha military service got access to the royal palace and occupied high offices. In addition to it, after the occupation of the office of premiership by Jung Bahadur Kunwar, son of Kazi Balnarsingh Kunwar, he upgraded himself to Rana Thakuri from Kunwar. Thence he forged marriage alliance with the Thakuri clan. Against this background the descendants of the deposed Thakuris of Achham got ample opportunities to enter into matrimonial alliance with the Ranas. Thus the Achham Mangal Sena branch was recognised as a principality. Even the branch of Bimkot, Tadigaihra and Seradhamali got maintenance allowance (mana chamal) as the feudal lord.

Though the Achhamese got cooperation of the Rana administration in their family upliftment, no administrative unit was not possible to be formed. In popular parlance the territory to the west of the Karnali and east of Phutauligad had been called Achham and the inhabitants of the territory were called Achhamese or Achhamelis. The resurrection of the kingdom of Achham which was completely wiped out as an entity after 1839 B.S. (1782 A.D.) rumingly began through the endeavours of the local

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population in 2014 B.S. (1957 A.D.).

In 2013 B.S. (1956 A.D.) most of the people of Achham went to the royal camp in Doti when the late King Mahendra was on his tour of the western region of Nepal and made representation on their demand for constituting the district of Achham. As a result in 2014 B.S. (1957 A.D.) the decision to constitute the district of Achham reflecting the popular usage of the medieval Achham was announced. The administrative power exercised from the Doti headquarters and the Dailekh headquarters as Doti Achham and Dailekh Achham was taken away and the district of Achham to the east of Doti Phulantigad and west of the Karnali Ramghat was set up as the Achham district Ridikot was specified as the headquarters. The Achhem of the later days can be linked with Achham of the present age.

The under mentioned people for the historical source of the district of Achham may be considered as bases.

1. Mr. Gopi Nath Mudvari: Shrikot Pipaldali
2. Raja Devendra Bahadur Shah: Darna
3. Sivanath Upadhyaya, Bhanubhakta Upadhyaya Adhikari: Kavalek
4. Prabhunath Devkota, Thiure Devkota: Devkota
5. Bhoj Raj Regmi: Achham Guhelapani
6. Tej Bahadur Shah: Kalimati
7. Dabbla Bahadur Kunwar: Parbhagaon
8. Tekendra Raj Bhatta: Ghungharkot
9. Devendra Bahadur Shah: Bunkot
10. Bichari (assistant to the judge) Ganesh Prasad Regmi: Kaphalikhet
11. Lalit Jung Swanr: Ridikot
12. Nara Bahadur Swanr: Jayagad
13. Lok Bahadur Shah: Tadigairhra
14. Dev Raj Regmi: Kalagaon
15. Hari Prasad Bhandari: Janali Bandali
16. Devendra Bahadur Bista: Mangal Sen
17. Krishna Bahadur Rawal: Jupugaon

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18. Janganath Joshi: Shera Dungala

19. Lok Bahadur Bista, Ram Bahadur Bista: Ghoda Sen

20. Dandabir Lamichhane Magar: Matham Bagaldeu

21. Chakra Bahadur Bista: Muligaon

22. Bhawani Prasad Sharma Kuinkyal: Kuika-palsa

23. Jayabir Dhami, Dil Bahadur Dhami Niraula: Binayak Dhamigaon

24. Basant Bahadur: Kuchchi Kalika

25. Jagannath Adhikari: Binayak

26. Pahalman Memorial Library: Mate

27. Mastamandu: Bindavasini

28. Binayak Panchdeval Library: Binayak

Introductory particulars of the source materials

Gopinath Mudvari Shrikot Pipaldaku:

Gopinath Mudvari, the hereditary priest of the popularly worshipped shrine of Baijnath from the pre-historic times in the district of Achham, is usually in possession of such pieces of evidence as belonging to the post-medieval period. The reason is a few years back the Chhipra Khola and the land slide of Bimkot blocked the natural course of the Budhiganga for many days and the surrounding areas, including the shrine of Baijnath monastery, its temple, rest-house, caravan serai, free travellers' lodge and the stone-house of the deity were sub merged in the flood water, the entire historical materials were damaged. It is the claim of the priest, that the shrine of Baijnath was washed away is history. According to his version, seven pieces of copper plates known to him were washed away. As to the loss of other documents, idols and architectural structural resources, it is countless.

In the same way Mr. Mudvari has hereditary links with a historical place like Shrikot. So Mr. Mudvari personally or his successors are expectedly to be cooperative in case the situation of excavation of Shrikot and Baijnath arises, together with the historic events and particulars as required from time to time the tradition of the founding and origin of Shrikot and Baijnath, innumerable Lal Mohars and the executive orders of the feudal lords of the post-medieval period.

Rajah Devendra Bahadur Shah: Darna

Rajah Devendra Bahadur Shah of Darna due to habitational reason is no exception to inclusion among the gentry of Achham. More often than not, he lives near Naulapur in the district of Bardia. That is why it is difficult to say definitely that those persons

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wishing to meet him will find him at Darna of Achham. However, if he is reached after hard endeavour, the study of adequate historical materials can be studied and profit gained. He has the collection of innumerable items. Some of which have already been published in Itihas Prakash (lights on history) as,pieces of evidence. In proportion to collection, invaluable resources are unpublished. He is considered to be the store house of the preservation of historic resources and the temple of Panchdeval with inscription is in tact near the residence of Rajah Devendra Bahadur Shah who is in possession of countless materials throwing light on the paramount Sovereignty of Sinja, one copper plate each of Emperor Punya Malla, Prithvi Malla and Abhaya Malla, some pieces of evidence relating to Yasobrahma, Chief of the ministers of king-emperor Prithvi Malla. some new lights (navonmesha) and Lal Mohars, executive orders, the directives under seal of feudal lords, rules and regulations and plentiful of historical materials relating to chronicles (Bamshavali).

As Rajah Devendra is personally interested in history and culture and by nature a seeker of knowledge, cooperation from him as expected can be obtained.

Sivanath Upadhyaya, Bhanubhakta Upadhyaya Adhikari: Kavalek

Sivanath Upadhyaya has the limitless collection of materials that can be considered as the living history of the western region of Nepal. Sivanath Upadhyaya with phenomenal memory and extra- ordinary inventiveness went totally blind at the last stage of his life. However, he has photographic memory of the political changes and administrative alterations that took place in the snow-covered regions within the interval of 1500 years and has the capacity to describe events which, when checked against the written evidence, agree to history. He used to describe the series of historical events in the presence of his able grandson- Bhanubhakta Adhikari to those who approach him as guests on their pursuit of knowledge. He used to assert. "Sivanath will not die because the writings of his notes, the collection of the materials, including the copper plates the proverbs and idioms which he has heard and learnt, impartial his knowledge and experience to his grandson and the local tradition and other materials and sharpened the knowledge of his grandson to the utmost. None coming to him on their pursuit of knowledge should go disappointed." This source is referred to because it is believed that his able grandson would contribute in the similar manner to that of his grand father whose collection, historical interest and the praise-worthy contribution did. This source is in possession of innumerable and important and historical pieces of evidence of Achham, five pieces of copper plates, two or three pieces of Lal Mohars, some inscriptions, lithographed seals, some chronicles and partition deeds.

Prabhunath Devkota, Thieure Devkota: Devkot

Prabhunath Devkota and Thieure Devkota, residents of Devkot of the sub-district (dara) Mallobhaiselo of Achham have two pieces of copper plates of 14th century, three pieces of Lal Mohars and the collection of some manuscripts, including a partition deed written in the 16th century. To have access to these materials, the presence of the two gentlemen is mandatory. If they are found together, the materials under their possession and ownership can be studied. With their cooperation the materials in possession of the Barals of Barla can be studied.

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Bhoj Raj Regmi: Guhelapani

Bhoj Raj Regmi, resident of Guhelapani, Achham, has a copper plate of Emperor Abhaya Malla dated 1298 Shake (1376 A.D.), genealogies of the Regmis and the Subedis and a few old documents. As a busy person, he cannot be reached without prior appointment. If he is found at home, more information about Shrikot can be obtained.

Tej Bahadur Shah: Kalimati

Some documents contemporaneous with the period of the unification of Nepal, Lal Mohars, executive orders, genealogy and some manuscripts can be studied through Tej Bahadur Shah the novelist resident of Kalimati, Achham. Being a first graduate of the region possibly and a research oriented scholar by nature, local dialect, acoustics, collection of idioms and phrases, puzzles and archaeological information, together the local tradition, can be obtained from him. additional information on the shrine of Vaidyanath can also be obtained.

Dabbal Bahadur Kunwar: Parbhagaon

Dabbal Bahadur Kunwar, a local (village level) worker and one- time member of the Achham district assembly is a novelist. He has in his possession and preservation many old sources relating to Shrikot, the shrine of Baijnath and Khulalu. He is research oriented and saintly minded. If all the collections in his possession can be edited and brought to light, additional information on the antiquity of Achham can be obtained. It is not difficult to meet him at home as he is used to spending his time at home in the pursuit of studies and writing. As he lives near the airstrip of Sanphe Bagar, he can easily be reached with ease in comparison with others.

Tikendra Raj Bhatt: Ghungharkot

Tikendra Raj Bhatt, nobly born in an educated family and the chief of village assembly many years ago and dedicated to public service, is personally enlightened, service-motivated and self- respecting. According to the version of the local populace, he is in possession of a copper plate belonging to Jitari Malla. In 2034 B.S. (1978 A.D.) he could not be reached in his house when an attempt was made to contact him. When he was met at Dhangadhi, he informed the research team that he was in possession of the said copper plate, a manuscript authored by Bhaskar Pandit well-known in history, a copper plate of a copper plate, a few Lal Mohars and old documents yet to be scrutinised. He is to be given prior notice for appointment. If found at home, appropriate assistance is made available.

Devendra Bahadur Shah: Bimkot

Devendra Bahadur Shah who claims to be the direct descendant of the eldest son Samal Shahi, political, is a soft spoken activist. Though he is the chief of the village assembly, does not seem to be so educated, but is a self-respecting nationalist interested in the preservation of history source. He has got some facts relating to Badi Malika, some facts relating to Mastamandau historical documents relating to Bimkot, Shrikot, the shrine of Baijnath, some documents of Kazi Ambar Simha Thapa, the founder-cum-builder of the temple of Badi Malika situated at the Kanapost and documents

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throwing light on the trust of the Kanapost.

If he can be brought into confidence, it would be easy to study the documents preserved at Bimkot as well as the boundless collection preserved at Bindavasini of Mastamandau.

Vichari Ganesh Prasad Regmi: Kaphalikhet

Ganesh Prasad Regmi who served as an assistant judge for a long time when he was young is a very clever and thoughtful man. It is not known whether or not he has copper plates, but he has a collection of Lal Mohars, ordinances, rules and regulations and ledger books of the holdings of the landlords. The pieces of evidence in his collection have, to some extent been published in Itihas Prakash (lights on history) and Seti Digdarshan (Seti Manual).

Lalit Jung Swanr: Ridikot

Lalit Jung Swanr, though a senior citizen of the district of Achham with phenomenal memory and saintly nature, is an active person standing on his own. Having spent many years in the state in a remote region like Jumla, he has earned his name there as an honest, dutiful and efficient person. He is not fond of quoting irrelevant incidents or useless gossip. He had the unique opportunity of coming in close contact with such world famous scholars like Sylvain Levi, the French Savant, Professor Luciano Petech and Tucci and his rich experience through his long life makes him the living history of the western region of Nepal and he may be appropriately named the open library of human life. Even when taking delivery of any document or handing over any, he has the habit of taking notes. He would not part with any document without a receipt. From his speech and attitude it can be inferred that guidance on relevant, meaningful and historically true and appropriate for popular consumption can be obtained from him.

Mr. Swanr, who is acquainted with various developments of modern Nepal and many political events and upheavals of the medieval period of western Nepal has a fine preservation of historical materials. Though a person of advanced age belonging to the Swanr family of Ridikot, Achham, he for the sake of convenience resides at Dhangadhi, Kailali. As he has earned outstanding social prestige, his opinion is cogent. there would hardly be any person who could contradict him. That is why relevant materials from Achham, Jumla and other parts of western Nepal can be ordered at Dhangadhi where he resides.

Nara Bahadur Swanr: Jayagadh

Mr. Nara Bahadur Swanr, an honest political activist is a soft-spoken man. He lives at historic Jayagadh with his well- established social reputation.

Only recently a very old man named Ram Bahadur Mijar with wide-ranging knowledge lived in this village. He was in possession of many historical documents. When this writer interviewed him in 2034 B.S. (1977 A.D.), he had said that after his death, his collection of historical documents would be owned by Nar Bahadur Swanr. For all these sources there would not be any person more appropriate than Nara

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Bahadur Swanr.

His natural inclination is also commendable. He behaves well with those who come in contact with him on their research project. He provides public cooperation, lodging and food and keeps his personal interest in historical source.

Lok Bahadur Shah: Tadigaihra

Lok Bahadur Shah is a distinguished personality of Ramarsun Tadigaihra. Mr. Shah, one-time chief of the village assembly, is a descendant of the aforesaid nine branches of Samal Shahi and others. He has a broken historical copper plate dated 1668 Shake (1746 A.D.) named "Tharkuracara Ko Rekh". This copper plate broken into two belongs to the period between Bikram Shahi, king of Jumla and King Samal Shahi of Ramkot. This feudal lord has one Lal Mohar issued by King Rana Bahadur providing maintenance allowance to his forefathers, together with some old documents. On the other side of the Tadigaihra village at the village Shera, there is a copper plate dated 1295 Shake (1373 A.D.) for which the information was available with Udaya Bahadur Shah but it is virtually under the control of Lok Bahadur Shah. This is available for study as and when need arises.

Dev Raj Regmi: Kalagaon

Dev Raj Regmi has a copper plate dated 1296 Shake (1374 A.D.) relating to Kalagaon. The copper plate was issued by Akshaya Malla.

Hari Prasad Bhandari: Janali Bandali

Mr. Bhandari, is a political activist with initiative and enterprise. Though personally uneducated he has no knowledge of history, but in his village, there is the ancient shrine of Mandalimasto. He has documents relating to endowment, land and modus operandi with stipulation of the rituals of the deity. As the person with the custody of the documents belongs to his group, without his cooperation, the documents cannot be studied.

Devendra Bahadur Bista: Mangalsen

Mr. Bista, descendant of the old associate of the Mangalsen branch of Samal Shahi does not have very old documents but possesses documents relating to modern Achham, other relating to the unification of Nepal, mysterious documents of the intervening period and notes of very ancient genealogy. In case of need, these are open to inspection and study.

Krishna Bahadur Rawal: Jupugaon

Mr. Rawal, one time member of National Assembly, and social activist has some documents of the medieval period and some very ancient documents. Those who go to him in pursuit of knowledge on special assignment will get his cooperation and be benefitted.

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Jagan Nath Joshi: Shera Dungala

Though belonging to the claim of Bajgai, and born in the family of the astrologers and with his Joshi Surname, Mr. Jagan Nath Joshi is well-known collector. He has a five collection of historical materials throwing light on the mediaeval period of the Karnali region. There is no limit to his acquisition of materials. In other words they may be called boundless. In that region the name of Mr. Joshi after Bhanubhakta comes fore most as a collector.

Lok Bahadur Bista, Ram Bahadur Bista: Ghodasen

Lok Bahadur Bista who worked as a writer in the Doti court for many years and who is interested in historical development has a fine collection of the documents of the sixteenth century. His collection specifically consists of those unpublished pieces of evidence relating to the record-keeping of the kingdom of Doti. When he was interviewed by the author in 1934 B.S. (1977 A.D.) in course of his history research mission, it was informed that the old man had full confidence in his son - Ram Bahadur Bista in its safe-keeping when asked about the future of his collection.

Dandavir Lamichhane Magar: Maitham Bagaldeu

Mr. Dandavir Lamichhane, an astrologer by profession, is a soft- tempered person. He has a manuscript entitled Ratnasarawastu Prakash dated sixteenth century a work on astrology and has preserved very old documents, persons going to him on their research project and depending on him for help will get satisfactory cooperation from him.

Chakra Bahadur Bista: Maligaon

Mr. Bista has some important documents of modern Nepal, together with some pieces of evidence relating to the kingdom of Shripal. He has the simple nature of cooperating with those scholars depending on him and approaching him on their study operation. Mr. Bista, one-time chief of the village assembly, is service- oriented and sociable. If situation warrants, he may personally be involved in research.

Bhawani Prasad Kuinkel: Kuinka Palsa

The family of Bhawani Prasad Sharma, educated youth of the village is also called "Agnihotri". This is the appellation earned by his forefathers. After acquiring the rent-free holding of Kuinka by Ela Bhatta, the eldest son of Lambodar Bhatta mentioned earlier, the family was converted into Kuinkyals, but for many generations this family had the Surname of Agnihotri. Though it is left for researchers to find out the truth how the family acquired the appellation from the unidentified king on unknown occasion, the family - it is learnt - has been using the appellation for generations. It is reported that this family has a copper plate issued by King Akshaya Malla as well as the information about Panchdeval, Binayak. They have the executive orders of Ambar Simha Thapa and Puskar Shah.

As Mr. Bhawani Prasad Sharma is involved in teaching profession, to meet him require prior intimation, if and when his services are necessary. As he is educated and

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sprung from a noble family, there is no doubt that desired cooperation from him can be expected from him.

Jayavir Dhami, Dil Bahadur Dhami Niraula: Binayak Dhamigaon

There is the historically famous shrine of Mandau of Tedhi Masto at Dhamigaon. The shrine of Mandau approximately 2000 years old has undergone renovations from time to time. Jayavir Dhami, operating the routine rituals of Mandau, is not only the patriarch of the Dhami clan but is advanced. In proportion to his boundless acquisition, no adequate provisions for their maintenance and preservation have not been made and the materials are lying in an ill-organised manner.

There are two copper plates, a drum with inscription, two maces, a big bell, three pieces of executive orders and very ancient documents relating to genealogy. These are available for study kept at the premises of the shrine situated within his court yard. As long as the old man lives, he will preserve and protect these fairly heirloom and after his death the tradition will be maintained - there is every reason to believe - by his son Dil Bahadur Dhami Niraula. In addition to it, his eldest son Chakra Bahadur Dhami Niraula is himself interested in the historical and cultural upliftment and is research oriented. There is no doubt that this family would contribute its share to cooperation as circumstances demand.

In the national history of Nepal, Masto may also become a cultural history. Even from the view point of the study of Masto, this place has become unforgetable. Of the twelve original Mastos, the family deity of Bharadwajas and Angiras is the historic Masto of Tedhi Masto. There is no other shrine elsewhere in the country that can equal or out do it.

If we are to assess his possessions of historical materials dumped in the sacks he has innumerable documents, copper plates, birches, Lal Mohars, executive orders, rules and regulations, ordinances, genealogies, records of land, notice, notes, manuscripts, daily diaries, statues of stone, metal and clay, musical instruments, medieaeval weapons and the like, but these materials are kept in the attic in an ill-organised manner and dumped in sacks so that it will take time to scrutinise and bring them into proper order.

Finally the services of an enterprising person like Jagannath Joshi who is history conscious are indispensibly needed to conduct study-cum-research of these materials. Taking all these factors into consideration, persons going to that part of the country on their history research mission would not come back disappointed provided that prior notice to that effect is given to him.

Basant Baduwal: Kuchchi Kalikagaon

Basant Baduwal who considers him the protagonist and basis of the Sinja civilisation and has sprung from the Sijapati clan of Kausika family (gotra) is fond of writing his Sijapati Surname. He has the information about the rise and fall of the Sijapati clan and has the custody of historical documents relating to the horripilating events of the mediaeval period. Appropriate help in respect of history source preservation operation can be expected from him.

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According to the opinion of the experienced old men, those copper plates can be deciphered by Basant Baduwal or Gopal Auji only. In fact the collection of Baduwal may consist of such rarities. There is an other fellow named Gopal Auji who is a fellow collector in this intellectual pursuit. He knows the Kalauti script. From these two gentlemen appropriate help can be obtained when need arises.

Jagannath Adhikari: Binayak

Mr. Adhikari has an old document entitled "Pekha Vrittanta! Though multilated it has been published in "Itihas Prakash". However, the published matter differs from that of the original.

Pahalman Memorial Library: Matela

This library was founded in pious memory of Pahalman Sing Swanr, the practising dramatist by the educated and enterprising people of the residents of Achham. When it was founded, it was housed at Mahendra Secondary School, Bayalpata and it was agreed to shift the library to Matela provided that the successors of the estate of Pahalman Simha Swanr agree to house it in his estate. Currently the library contains the books authored by Pahalman Simha Swanr or reflecting his personality and appreciating his literary works.

Mastamandau: Bindavasini

Of the mounds contributing to the study and research of Mastos, it is one of them. In the previous context short references to Kshetrapal Kasto located at Bajgaon and the mound of Tedhimand located at Bajgaon, Binayak. From the view point of collection, the mound of Tedhi Masto and Mastomandau may be serviceable, yet the local rumour is the copper plates providing for the trust land as well as the mount of this holy mound are buried in the mound.

The Binayak Panchdeval Library: Binayak

The Binayak Panchdeval library established about ten years back through the efforts of the enterprising students deputed there in National Development Service and the enterprising people may be called the museum of Panchdeval and archaeological objects.

Conclusion

It is no wonder that no comprehensive light on the history and cultural of the extensive district like Achham can be thrown in view of the scantly treatment given to it by the author.

If omissions have occurred at places due to oversight, the previously published works Itihas Prakash. From Mechi to Mahakali, Seti zone manual and Ancient Nepal should be for the purpose consulted.

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The District of Bajhang

The district of Bajhang under the remote western zone development sector is a hilly district of the Seti zone. Chainpur is the district headquarters. This district is bounded in the east by Bajura, in the west Darchula and Baitadi, Doti in the south and in the north Humla and the autonomous region of Tibet of People's Republic of China. From the view point of Bajhang, this district seems very backward. No other means of transport except walking is available. The district of Doti is considered nearest for transport as the airstrip at Dipayal, Doti, is used for going to Bajhang which has no airstrip. It takes 1 1/2 days to reach Bajhang from Doti via Silgari. In addition to it, the other popular route is to go to Chainpur, Bajhang via Baitadi.

It was a principality of the 22 principalities in the medieval period. During the administration of Regent Bahadur Shah it was amalgamated into the kingdom of Nepal and as late as 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.) this remained as a fiefdom under the kingdom of Nepal.

The sites of historical sources

The various offices in Bajhang were set up only after 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.). So that no historical public records were available there. Such old records were kept in the custody of the Rajah of Bajhang, feudal lords (Rajawar), scribes, administrators, nobles, royal collaterals, royal cousins, elders and other senior people. After 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.) when all such principalities were abolished, the safe-keeping of such materials was disorganised. But the locals have currently maintained such documents which have been with them traditionally. Among the people preserving such public records, the persons described hereinafter are major though old documents are available in every household of Bajhang.

Jung Bahadur Simha, feudal lord of Talkot.

The Talkot sector within the district of Bajhang had been the main route to conduct business with Tibet since the days of King Shakti Simha of Bajhang. For that reason the king of Bajhang used to appoint feudal lord to collect various taxes from the various parts of Talkot, bring the subjects under control, frame rules and regulations, settle people there, and cause land to be brought under cultivation and make it pleasant.

Since the days when the first administrator was appointed at Talkot, documents relating 36 types of taxes, customs and manners, religious works, copper plates donating land, manufacture of arms and ammunition, clothes, armour, headgear, military hardware and genealogies. In addition to these, old charters, Lal Mohars, executive orders, ordinances, petitions, applications, orders, executive orders, bonds, handnotes and miscellaneous letters are preserved. All these collections are in the possession of Jung Bahadur Simha, the scion of the feudal administrator of Kilti. The historical materials in his custody throw considerable light on the Bajhangi culture and medieval conditions. It is difficult to assess the amount of materials in his custody only on the basis of hasty

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perusal, but two bags contain not less than 900 documents. Together with these, the collection of old idols and weapons is not less referable. He has in his possession a manuscript containing the laudations of many deities - male and female, various kinds of folk songs, spring festival songs, vespers and songs throwing light on the history of the Rajputs, together with the folklore of Bajhang.

The records in the possession of Jung Bahadur Simha are such as well throw light on the history of Bajhang, Bajura, Achham and Kumaon. Talkot is the strategically important point of the kingdom of Bajhang in the medieval period. The office of the administrator being hereditary, it is but natural that the preservation of the old records was done by the family of the hereditary administrators. Together with it, their historic perception is also understandable. The records in his possession are in Khas language mixed with Sanskrit and the script is Devnagari.

No special provisions for the preservation of the public records of Talkot have been made. Specially the documents with old records are covered with cloth and folded. They are kept at the places rarely used and they are seldom opened for inspection. Some bundles and documents are so much so coated with smoke that they have become black as pitch. There is no provision for making notes of such documents or register them thrown as junks. This is a rule than exception that such records are made available to the outsiders.

Dewan Bishnu Bhakta Joshi

Dewan Bishnu Bhakta Joshi, resident of Golai village situated in the south-west of Chainpur, the headquarters of the Bajhang district, is the hereditary priest-astrologer of the Rajah of Bajhang. The position of stars at the time of the births of the Bajhangi kings (Kundali), mini-horoscopes (Tippani), horoscopes (China) and other notes of contemporary events without thinking of conforming to the historical sense and other pieces of materials have become the source of history. Such public records have been preserved by his family from generation to generation. There are reasons to believe that he has three copper plates and he claims that they are no longer with him and he does not want them to be publicly examined. His ancient house was at the top of the Golai village, but their settlement was later shifted to the base of the hill so that any person desiring for the documents must go to the family house. He has approximately 3000 documents or more.

The documents with Dewan Bishnu Bhakta Joshi include specifically the executive orders, ordinances, premier's executive orders with the sword imprint, Lal Mohars, rough drafts, the documents issued by the royal preceptor, together with the originals of the old calendars, writings on astrology, books, the Rana period documents with the imprint of elephant leg like seals, the gift deeds made by the kings of Bajhang, bonds to pay the sum within the stipulated period, political comments, matters relating to social policy and matters reflecting on the economic sphere which are preserved, provided that these documents are systematically studied, many matters relating to the medieval history of Bajhang, which remain dark will come to light.

The way of preserving the collected old documents and records with Dewan Bishnu Bhakta Joshi is ordinary. His collected documents are damaged by rats, water, cold and oil. No attention has been given to this effect. The records with him are in

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Devnagari script and the language is Khas.

He may expose his collection to the public but it is difficult to keep tract of him and find him unoccupied because he is a priest, astrologer, physician, exorciser and ledger- keeper. He is on a peripatetic spree throughout Bajhang. He is not a person to be under the thumb of any administrator, is free and easy and demanding self-respect and gives priority to discretion. History researchers should make themselves sociable in his presence. Materials in his possession may be subject to inspection if he can be convinced.

Bhawakeshar Joshi (Regmi) now deceased

Bhawakeshar Joshi was a scholar of Bajhang, time-tested and the royal preceptor. After his demise in 1939 B.S. (1882 A.D.), Bajhang felt some sort of scholarly vacuum. First of all he had prepared history favourable to the genealogy of the Thami kings of Bajhang. The draft of the history of Bajhang which was published in "Itihas Prakash" by Yogi Naraharinath was prepared by him and delivered to the late Ram Jung Bahadur Simha. In the collection of the deceased Joshi there are old historical letters, cosmogony (purana), vedas, astrology in sufficient number.

The books, letters, calendars, short notes on the planetary position at birth and lives of the kings and feudal lords would fill the gap of the medieval history of Bajhang. After his death some of the major books are in possession of Laxmi Nath Joshi, his nephew. His writings with evident reference to the society of Bajhang would be very useful to the students of history. Among the documents, the 8 metre long horoscope of Krishna Shah, second son of King Samudra Simha and Queen Marchawati will strike us with awe when perused. It is learnt that some bagful of such documents were consigned to flames. Bhawakeshar Joshi was familiar with the scheduled tribes of Bajhang as well as major series of events that occurred there. To be specific, he was the epitome of living history. After his death the tradition of writing and note-making has been broken. His calendars, tomes, other works on astrology and astronomy, Ayurvedic medicine and other book-writing tradition are lost for ever. During the life-time of Joshi, the preservation process of calendars and books was organised, but later on no such provision exists.

The process of preserving books in the house of the deceased Joshi is well organised. The family being educated, the books are preserved under proper care. They are preserved and protected by pressing them through sheer force in baskets, wooden frame works, bamboo boxes and bamboo stands. Though the owners are not in need of these books for the time being, they have preserved documents, books, calendars, tomes, pages and manuscripts of history for the use of the future generation, but those were damaged by rats. The old documents will be open to perusal provided that an authorized letter from the government is duly furnished. No registration of the documents and books in his custody has been effected. Such documents number approximately 500 books, more than thousand old calendars and about one thousand documents.

Those wishing to study that collection should win their confidence in a sound manner for that collection to be inspected. They have preserved those with a view to obtaining any pecuniary advantage in the years to come.

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Madan Raj Joshi

Madan Raj Joshi who is the representative priest of the mound of Bhote Khola, the holy land of the famous village of Dhandar Masto (mound) of the district of Bajhang, is the living history of Bajhang. Madan Raj Joshi who worked as a ledger-keeper for many years in his youthful days at the court of the principality of Bajhang has been in close contact with the kings of Bajhang for 17 generations. He functions as the priest when the princes of Bajhang perform sacrificial rituals. In his possession there are documents throwing light on the past historical facts of the principality of Bajhang, together with the collection of executive orders, copper plates, Lal Mohars, letters, petitions, official approvals (Niksari), fines and punishment, delivery and entry in the income column invalidation of registration, books and manuscripts. His documents refer to various kinds of metals extracted from different parts of Bajhang and the many utensils made there from. He is supposed to have five copper plates as referred to in his documents but he offers only three for inspection and asserts the loss of two copper plates in a casual manner. He has two boxes full of documents some of which are decayed and others kept as junks and dilapidated. The family is seemingly well-cultured. His collection of documents number approximately two thousand.

The documents in his possessions are predominantly historical. To be specific, he has exclusive information about Hatia King Simgarubamm and the kings of Bahrakoti and Suwakoti. The documents junked at every nook and corner of his house on inspection will invite cold. They are not maintained systematically. He knows as much as Jharendra Narayan Subedi, in respect of King Shakti Simha of Bajhang, the origin of the Dhandhar mound and the incarnation of the Banni mound because he is the priest of the Dhandhar mound as the agent of Subedis. Persons wishing to see the documents of the kings of Bajhang after 1503 B.S. (1446 A.D.), hand notes, palm-leaves and petitions and the like up to 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.) are available at his residence.

It must be admitted that proper management of the preservation of the documents and books in the collection of Madan Raj Joshi has been made. As the books and documents are kept out of reach of children, the children cannot handle them nor can they tear off the pages. As they are preserved in a traditional manner in bags, the situation is similar. No serialised table of contents or registration has been made. However, the documents are in safe custody. There is no doubt about it. Some Lal Mohars which may have some practical relevance have been preserved in a bundle with the musk of the musk-deer against worms. It is evident that no other member of his family has any knowledge of the quantum of those materials nor their nature, but Mr. Joshi has complete knowledge of their contents and nature.

The outsiders who go there for the perusal of those materials are warmly welcomed by the members of his family. The duplicates of the materials in his possession can be made but cannot be taken out. The environment is the documents in possession of other persons in that part of the district can be sent for through the good offices of Mr. Joshi.

Harkha Bahadur Bamm

Harkha Bahadur Bamm Thakuri, resident of Dangaon, Sunikot, in the district of

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Bajhang, has full of materials beyond the comprehension of historical sources. He has in his custody very old, very weighty and undecipherable collection of materials. He hesitates to disclose the existence of his collected materials and he is by nature unwilling to expose his collection to the public eye. To procure materials from him is a hard nut to crack. The documents in his possession have significance of other nature. No other person in the district of Bajhang has got documents of such importance. It can be attributed to one factor - he has the collection of 700 such documents. He has also the genealogy of Doti, Bajhang and the Chand kings of olden days. But none of the genealogies in his custody has any date.

The documents in the custody of Harkha Bahadur Bamm are so important for one specific reason - the collection has treaties between Bajhang and Tibet. He has plenty of public records written in Tibetan script jointly under the signature of 500 Lamas of Tibet, but the language written in Nepali paper is hardly legible. The trade route to Tibet from Bajhang ran through Charichoda, Danidhunga, Jidaikot, Saipal, Garapu, Khojarnath, Taklakhar by way of Sunkuda of the Kanda sub-district of Bajhang and coursed through the Urai pass. To collect taxes from the traders, commercial agents were appointed at those trading posts. They were invested with high powers.

As the scion of such commercial agents Harkha Bahadur Bamm's collected materials have become so important. Those documents refer to the description of the exploits done by the forefathers of those trade agents and to the traders, yaks, sheep, mules, asses, horses and load-carriers who bring salt, wool, gold, butter and other precious metals. From these trade agents are authorized to collect taxes from them for articles imported. His collection includes letters between the Government of Nepal (Gorkha) and Bajhang even after the unification of Nepal on one hand and between Bajhang and Tibet on the other hand. But all the documents in his collection are not yet open to the public. The aforesaid documents give us a glimpse of the relationship existing between Tibet and Bajhang since the medieaval period when Bajhang was an independent country. The management for the preservation of the documents is not organised but without carefully observing the place where they are stored it is difficult to pass judgement on it.

It would be difficult for any historian and researcher to get access to those materials for perusal and study. He has the historical knowledge of the Bamms of Sunikot and the comprehensive information about the routes to Tibet.

Kubhendra Rokaya

Kubhendra Rokaya is presented here as a collector of the historical materials of Bajhang and Thalahara. Of those materials copper plates and documents dominate. The settlement of the Rokaya clan in the Chhanna Majhigaon, Bajhang is very thick. As the Rokayas were the traditional associates of the kings of Bajhang, all the Rokayas have the possessions of the historical records. Kubhendra Rokaya, the resident of Silkawada, is an influential person of the area. The collection of documents in his possession exceeds three thousand.

From the perusal of the documents in his possession, clear picture of the economic conditions of the principality of Bajhang and that of Thalahara from time to time can be obtained. The events occurring during the period of the administration of Thalahara

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and after its integration with Bajhang are both interesting and exciting curiosity. The documents in his collection deal specifically with sentencing a man to death, eating human flesh, fishing in a stream, catching the fish by damming the Seti river, cutting bushes, transporting them and sending concubines.

Prior to going to his residence for the purpose of studying those materials by the outsiders, they should put all the cards on his table to convince him. Presumably it will not be difficult to get access to his collection as he is an intelligent person.

Gagan Jung Bahadur Simha, member, National Assembly

Mr. Gagan, J.B. Simha is an amateur collector of the works in history, literature, music and drama. Though not a serious student of history, many historical materials have come into his possessions through various circumstances. Born in the family of Rajah Jaya Prithvi Bahadur who made the first endeavour to make Bajhang educated, Gagan Jung Bahadur is educated and an intellectual. There is no doubt about it.

Chandra Jung Bahadur Simha, now deceased, belongs to that group studying history. Though not a researcher, he was a collector. From his contact with different persons of every sector of Bajhang, he collected copper plates, Lal Mohars, ledgers, charters, ordinances, hand note, promissory notes, suits like the beheading of an adulter, decrees and palm-leaves and made the diary of some events in a systematic manner. As he was deeply involved in politics, he could not make any entry of history inspite of his inclination to history. But his sudden death in 2025 B.S. (1968 A.D.) interrupted his work. After his death the vast materials of his collection went unutilized. In the meantime Yogi Naraharinath arrived at Bajhang and Mrs. Sharada Simha, wife of Chandra Bahadur Simha, handed over the important documents as well as the history written by Janga Bahadur Simha to the Yogi, but those materials have not come out in print. As the wife of Chandra Jung shifted his residence from Bajahng to Dhangadi, his five boxes full of documents were left at Bajhang. Some of those boxes were stolen. The materials thus stolen, are not available for perusal, though they are still with the residents of Bajhang. In the meantime a traveller reportedly toured the area of Bajhang. But no information is available of the appropriate publication of those materials. Of the materials thus far published, the volume is replete with insubstantial trash. The materials in the custody of Gagan Jung Bahadur Simha, member, National Assembly, number not less than three thousands items, but it is a Herculean task to go through all these materials. If we are to make a count of all materials - sketches and trash - they would exceed approximately five thousand. According to the information supplied by Mrs. Sharada Simha, one box full of documents is in possession of Uttam Bahadur Simha. As to other materials, they are in the custody of Jagan Jung Bahadur, member, National Assembly.

Though the materials in his possession are properly maintained, they remained unregistered. The management of the documents prior to the sales of the elephant stud, the palaces of Chainpur and Bajhang to His Majesty's Government was well organised, but after the sales, there was no provision for the safe-keeping of the documents. The documents throw light on the history of Bajhang with its religion, culture, laws, tours, rules and regulations, administration of justice, dancing and singing, rhythm, incidence of theft, adultery, fines and punishment, religious preceptor, grant of rent-free holdings, gifts, inheritance, decrees, feudal lords, administrators, royal

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collateral, queens, noble men and the princes and many other items as well as sending girls to the harem of the feudal lords, maintenance of concubines and the female slaves. Besides these, there are documents dealing in kinds in his collection.

In addition to these, there are documents dealing in the hardship caused to the local people, irrigation, paths, bridges, water courses, popular life, current market price, laws governing the owners of male and female slaves, foreign relations of Bajhang with other principalities and materials throwing light on the position of the king of Bajhang after the unification of Nepal.

As Mr. Simha, is Kathmandu-based, the preservation and protection of the materials would pose a question mark. The materials are not classified and catalogued in a modern fashion. The documents and public records are lying there in the absence of guardianship. It is but natural to feel sympathy for their plight. There would not be any over-statement if we assert that there is no tradition of maintaining old documents in the possession of private persons in a classified manner in western Nepal like Bajhang and the adjoining areas. The people of the region are crassly ignorant of the method of preservation and protection.

If we make formal request to the honourable member from Bajhang, he would be glad enough to make the materials available for study. As he usually lives in Kathmandu, it would be advisable to meet him when he is at Bajhang, otherwise it would be a leap in the dark. Another consideration to bring the materials from Bajhang to Kathmandu has to be taken into account.

Other persons with the custody of historical materials

Other persons resident of Bajhang have also historical materials. Only the names of some notable persons can be referred to:

1. Jagat Bahadur Simha, Khatewadagaon, Thaligaon Bajhang.
2. Rana Bahadur Budha Chhetri, uppermost village, Thali, Thaligaon Bajhang.
3. Dhan Raj Soti, Ward No. 5, Pata village Bajhang.
4. Tilak Bahadur Thapa, Chief, Bhuteda Bajhang.
5. Jhurendra Narayan Subedi, feudal lord, Subeda village Bajhang.
6. Mrs. Sharada Simha (wife of Chandra Jung now deceased) currently, Bhansar Road, Dhangadi.
7. Kharidar Uttam Bahadur Simha, Chainpur village Bajhang.

The above mentioned persons have more or less pieces of evidence, but it is difficult to assert whether or not the documents in their possession would be exposed to the public eye as their discretion are the decisive factors.

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The District of Jumla

The district of Jumla is situated in the Karnali zone under the central western region development area. This is the headquarters of the Karnali zone. The headquarters of this district is also called Khalanga Bazar and the people of the locality call it Chandan Chaur. This district lies 7,600 feet or 2317 metres above the sea level. This district is bounded in the north by Mugu, Jajarkot in the south, Dolpa in the east and Kalikot in the west. The absence of transport facilities has made this district inaccessible. Only recently this district has got the benefit of air service and wireless communication prior to the availability of air service. It takes five days trekking via Dailekh to reach here. The air service in rainy season and winter remains unoperational. The airstrip of Jumla is about 2 kilometres from Khalanga Bazar.

Prior to the unification of Nepal, it was under the jurisdiction of twenty-two principalities. In 2018 B.S. (1961 A.D.) Nepal was divided into 14 zones and 75 districts. Prior to it, Jumla and Dolpa were divided into 18 sub-districts. The term 'dara' is based on geographic division made of water courses. Each dara (sub-district) was administered by one rent-collector (Zimbawal) and he was responsible for collecting the rent of the sub- district. Currently there are 49 villages.

In ancient days this region was successively ruled by the Naga dynasty, the Pala dynasty and the Shahi dynasty. In 1846 B.S. (1789 A.D.) during the Nepal unification campaign the Nepalese army led by Shiva Narayan Khatri and Praval Rana attacked Jumla and after its conquest this region was integrated in the kingdom of Nepal and at that time Sobhan Shahi was the king of Jumla. The historical sources recovered from this region run as follows.

Chandan Nath of Khalanga Bazar, Jumla

The catalogue of the shrine of Chandan Nath located at the centre of the market place of Jumla lists much assets, including maces of various kinds. Besides this, strict security measures should be adopted there.

The following are the documents in the custody of Madan Mohan Brahmacary (celebate), the priest of the shrine and Ratna Prasad, the ledger-keeper.

1. There are 13 joint pieces of Lal Mohars dated from 1852 to 1899 B.S. (attached together) relating to the operation of rituals.

2. One Lal Mohar dated 1888 B.S. relating to trust land.

3. A Lal Mohar dated Sunday the 4th of Ashwin Vadi, 1888 B.S. (October 1831 A.D.).

4. The outlay for operating the rituals dated 1903 B.S. (1846 A.D.).

5. A Lal Mohar relating to dry land dated Monday Kartik Vadi 7, 1910 B.S. (November 1853 A.D.).

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6. The inscription of the silvergate of Chandan Nath.

7. The inscription at the plinth of Garuda Narayan.

8. Various inscriptions at different paths.

Panch Deval, Mahat Village panchayat, district, Jumla

This temple is engraved with inscriptions on various parts. Of the two upright columns, the inscription on one is legible and while the other is rubbed off.

Madan Prasad Regmi, Taliumra village

The inscriptions recovered from Madan Prasad Regmi, resident of Shriduska, Taliumra village district, Jumla.

1. A gold plate dated Shrawan Sudi 10, 1278 Shake (August 1356 A.D.) issued by King Prithvi Malla.

2. A letter dated 1881 B.S. written by Captain Nagindra Shah offering his salutation.

3. The document of Captain Gajakeshar Khatri acknowledging the tributes (sirto) received from 12 and 20 sub-districts (dara). It is dated Sunday the 4th of Bhadra in the bright half of 1891 B.S. (September 1834 A.D.).

4. The executive order of the king dated Saturday 10th Ashadh in the bright half of 1893 B.S. (July 1836 A.D.) directing the priest to operate the rituals and enjoy the residue out of sum allocated.

5. The document of Captain Gajakeshar dated Sunday Baisakh Vadi (dark half) 10 of 1894 B.S. (May 1837 A.D.) reflecting the income from 12 & 20 sub-districts.

6. A clearance certificate acknowledging the receipt of the contractual amount as laid in the royal executive order (Lal Mohar) dated 1897 B.S. (1840 A.D.) for 12 and 20 sub-districts of Jumla.

7. The document under the signature of Umed Simha Basnyat 1900 Baisakh (April-May 1843 A.D.) issuing a clearance certificate for acknowledging the receipt of the tributes from 12 and 20 sub-districts of Jumla except those items expressly exempted by the royal executive order.

8. The document dated 1902 B.S. (1845 A.D.) under the signature of Dal Shah issuing a clearance certificate acknowledging the receipt of the contractual amount as laid down in the royal executive order (Lal Mohar).

9. A letter dated Monday Marga Vadi (dark half) 10 of 1905 B.S. (November 1848 A.D.) addressed to Subba Devi Prasad of the overhaul inspection to seek mutual consultation when an official is dead or promoted.

10. The document under the signature of Kazi Ranabir Simha Basnyat dated

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Wednesday Jestha Sudi (bright half) 10, 1907 B.S. (May 1850 A.D.) empowering the person named to collect his remuneration from Chhina Sima.

11. The document dated Chaitra Sudi 10, 1923 B.S. (April 1866 A.D.) addressed to the treasury section of the office of the Bandannath company acknowledging the receipt of the sum payable under the contractual terms.

12. A letter under the signature of Lieutenant Colonel Gunja Man Simha Basnyat dated Sunday the first of Marga Vadi (dark half) of 1923 B.S. (November 1866 A.D.) addressed Padmanabha and others that the loan taken from Kharidar Jay Rudra Subedi has been paid off while residing in the valley of Kathmandu.

13. This is a letter issued by the treasury section of the Bandannath company instructing the officials concerned to collect the tributes from 500 sub-districts according to usage and contract. It is dated Friday Baisakh Vadi (dark half) of 1926 B.S. (April 1869 A.D.)

The documents recovered from Gauri Kant Upadhyaya, resident of Ludku, Sinja

While passing through Khalanga, Jumla in a west-north route by way of the Jaljala lake, a day's trekking leads us to Had Sinja. Sinja is considered to be the original source from which the Nepali language sprung up. Sinja is the important site of the district of Jumla.

The documents obtained from Gauri Kant Upadhyaya, resident of Ludku in the Sinja sector of the district of Jumla.

1. A royal executive order dated 1863 B.S. (1806 A.D.) in respect of possessing the wet land in the Sinja valley.

2. A royal executive order dated 1863 B.S. (1806 A.D.) in respect of possessing the wet land in the Sinja valley.

3. A Lal Mohar dated Sunday Ashwin Vadi 4, 1888 B.S. (October 1831 A.D.) in respect of enjoying the usufruct of three villages of the Sinja sub-district as maintenance allowance.

4. A letter dated Sunday the sixth of Kartik Vadi of 1890 B.S. (October 1833 A.D.) instructing the officials concerned not to collect more rent than specified in the Lal Mohar.

5. The executive order of King Kalyal dated Wednesday the 4th of Magh Sudi, 1920 B.S. (February 1863 A.D.).

6. Documents in respect of the operation of the rituals of the deity and the recital of the holy text.

7. A document relating to the fiscal transactions of the Sinja area.

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8. Copper plate.

9. An application dated Jestha 2028 B.S. (1971 A.D.) praying for rupees 50 fiscal aid according to the charter made the Wednesday the 28th of Chaitra, 1991 B.S. (March 1935 A.D.) for Kanaka Sundarimai.

The documents received from Kavibhakta Upadhyaya Neupane, resident of Ludku, Sinja

1. A royal executive order dated Monday the 8th Ashwin Vadi, 1865 B.S. (September 1808 A.D.) prohibiting the sales of children deliberately.

2. A royal executive order dated Tuesday the third of Magh Vadi, 1871 B.S. (February 1814 A.D.) empowering the enjoyment of charges by usage.

3. A royal executive order dated Sunday the 13th of Bhadra Vadi, 1881 B.S. (August 1824 A.D.) summoning the person affected to the capital.

4. A royal executive order dated Tuesday Baisakh Sudi 1, 1882 B.S. (May 1825 A.D.) empowering the person affected to go on enjoying the maintenance allowance and a document relating to rent-free holdings.

5. A Lal Mohar dated Tuesday the 7th Chaitra Sudi of 1900 B.S. (April 1942 A.D.) relating to offering on contract those pieces of land given as an exclusive possession to an official.

6. A royal executive order dated Sunday the 9th of Bhadra Sudi, 1903 B.S. (September 1846 A.D.) prohibiting the application of forced labour for carrying on the luggage of the state employees.

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The District of Mugu

The district of Mugu located in the Karnali zone is under the central western regional development sector. The district headquarters of the district is Gamgadhi. The district in the north is bounded by Humla and the Tibetan region, Jumla and Kalikot in the south, Dolpa in the east and the district of Bajura in the west. This district lies at an altitude of 6,700 feet or 2,043 metres above the sea level. This district has the largest lake of the kingdom-Rara. That is the Mahendra Lake which carries with it the spectacular natural beauty. It is one of the most inaccessible regions of the country. It takes two days' trekking via the Danphe lake from Jumla to reach Gamgadhi. For tours and transports in the region only foot trails and mule- tracts are the available means. In respect of postal and communication services, they are limited to the district headquarters and some important villages only. Prior to the division of the country into 14 zones and 75 districts, this district fell under the jurisdiction of Humla and Jumla out of 32 administrative districts of the kingdom of Nepal. The district of Mugu has 20 villages.

In the medieval period the district of Mugu was under the subordination of the kingdom of Jumla. The materials relating to records for the purpose of historical sources obtained in the district run as follows.

Historical documents received from Prithvi Bahadur Hamal Vice Chairman,

1. The Lal Mohar dated Sunday the 14th of Magh Vadi, 1892 B.S. (February 1835 A.D.) issued by King Kalyan authorizing Bishwanath Chaulagai, Sundar, Mukti Raj Jaisi and others to operate the traditional rituals.

2. The confirmation deed dated Thursday the 5th of Ashadh Vadi (1893 B.S. (July 1836 A.D.) that they were not required to offer copper plates but the subjects are required to pay feudal taxes and offerings from time to time to the royal palace of Chhinasim.

3. The order of the Chhinasim court dated Sunday the 14th of Shrawan Vadi, 1898 B.S. (August 1841 A.D.) allocating rupees 25 as the religious fees for Sundar Joshi and Bishwanath Chaulagai out of fines imposed on offenders guilty of committing heinous crimes.

4. The confirmation deed dated Thursday Phalgun Sudi 5, 1898 B.S. (March 1841 A.D.) for operating the rituals of the deity.

5. The executive order of Kazi Mathbar Simha Thapa endorsed by Nara Simha Thapa and Ragubirbrind Parakram Shah during the reign of King Rajendra regulating the customs and contract. Various Lal Mohars issued on various subjects dated Tuesday Chaitra Sudi 7, 1900 B.S. (April 1942 A.D.).

6. The document originating from Daftar Khana dated Sunday the 12th of Jestha 1901 B.S. (June 1844 A.D.) directing the officials not to employ iron-mongers as load carriers of salt from Lumsa and confirmed their duties to bringing the pole and preserving the place named.

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7. The instruction dated Friday the 11th of Kartik Sudi, 1907 B.S. (November 1850 A.D.) directing the officials not to harass 7 priests and 2 attendants of Chainpur in the allowances they are enjoying.

8. The instruction dated Friday the 5th of Poush Sudi, 1909 B.S. (December 1852 A.D.) directs the priest to operate the rituals of the deity and collect his remuneration.

9. The confirmation deed made in favour of Sundar Joshi and Bishwanath Chaulagai for operating the routine rituals of the deity during the 9 day ceremony. It is dated Sunday the 13th of Ashadh Vadi, 1910 B.S. (July 1853 A.D.).

10. The confirmation deed made in favour of the iron-mongers, residents of Chainpur, Brahmangaon and Nigalya of the Gamdara sub-district that they are not required to carry the load of salt in consideration of the services rendered by them in bringing the twigs and bark of the deodar at the shrines of Chhayanath and Rinamoksha together with a pole on the first day of Durga Puja. It is dated Marga 1918 B.S. (November 1861 A.D.).

11. The confirmation deed dated the 5th of Shrawan, 1928 B.S. (July 1871 A.d.) directing the iron-mongers to bring the barks of the deodar tree, bring the pole as mentioned previously and remain in attendance of the deity.

The documents received from Bhim Krishna Chaulagain, the priest of Kalika Malika located at Srinagar, Gamgadhi

1. The document confirming the operation of the rituals. It is dated Saturday Baisakh Sudi, 1905 B.S. (April 1848 A.D.).

2. The catalogue of the operational cost of Chhayanath, Rinamoksha and Annapurneswari. It is dated 1909 B.S. (1852 A.D.).

3. The catalogue of the operational cost of Chhayanath, Rinamoksha and other deities. It is dated Monday the 25th of Bhadra 2028 B.S. (September 1971 A.D.).

4. The relevant document in the custody of Uttar Dhoj Thapa praying for the restoration of the stolen images. It is dated Sunday the first of Bhadra 2037 B.S. (August 1980 A.D.).

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The District of Kalikot

The district of Kalikot is in the Karnali zone under the central western region development sector. The district headquarters is Khand Chakra (Manma). The district office is located at Khand Chakra while other offices and the settlement are at Manma. This district lies at an altitude of above 7,000 feet or 2,134 metres above the sea level. The district is bounded in the east by Jumla, in the west Achham and Bajura, Mugu in the north and Dailekh in the south. This district was originally called Tibrikot. According popular belief the place was called Tibrikot because the holy shrine of Tripurasundari Devi famous throughout the district was located there. When the country was divided into 14 zones and 75 districts, the shrine is currently in the district of Dolpa. When a separate headquarters was established after it was detached from the headquarters of Jumla for the last few years, the district of Tibrikot was re-christianed Kalikot. The trekking distance from the district headquarters of Jumla to the district headquarters of Kalikot is three days. From the stand point of transport, this district is very inaccessible. No means of transport except foot trails and mule tracts is available and in respect of communication, postal and air services are available.

In the medieval period the district of Kalikot was under the subordination of the kingdom of Jumla. The history of the area is the history of the kingdom of Jumla.

The record materials relating to the historical source available in the district are like these.

Mehalmadhi Village, Kalikot

The place is inhabited by the families of the previous rulers. Almost days' trekking leads us to this place from the district headquarters. Mrs. Karma Kumari Shah, wife of Rajah Gorakh Bahadur Shah,now deceased, lives here. She introduces herself as the grand daughter-in-law of Malay Burma. Currently she is the chairperson of the district women's organisation. The documents recovered from this locality are as follows.

1. A copper plate dated 1542 Shake (1620 A.D.).

2. A document containing the catalogue of the gold image of Badi Malika and the ornaments attached thereto.

3. A document pledging to be a bonded labour pending the failure to pay off the loan taken from Jay Bahadur Shahi by Alyaluar. It is dated 1922 B.S. (1865 A.D.).

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The District of Jajarkot

The district of Jajarkot is one of the five districts of the Bheri zone under the central western regional development sector. The district headquarters of Jajarkot is Khalanga. the district is bounded in the east by Rukum and Dolpa, Dailekh in the west, Jumla and Kalikot in the west and the district of Surkhet and Sallyan in the south. The district for want of transport facilities is deemed inaccessible. It takes 5 days' trekking journey from Tulsipur, Dang to reach Jajarkot, three days' from Dailekh and four days from Jumla of the most frequently used routes to reach Jajarkot, the most frequent is that originating from Dang. This district has 23 villages, prior to the unification of Nepal, it was one of the principalities out of 22 principalities. At the time of the unification of Nepal, the king of Jajarkot rendered yeoman's service to Gorkha for which King Prithvi Narayan Shah of Gorkha, though he attacked other principalities, assured the king of Jajarkot that he would not attack Jajarkot and took it under his protection, King Rana Bahadur following the gentleman's agreement made by King Prithvi Narayan Shah, extended all possible facilities to the king of Jajarkot as a feudal lord and recognised it as a princedom subject to the jurisdiction of Nepal.

The localities where historical materials are available in the district of Jajarkot are government offices

All the district level offices by and large have currently come into being in the district of Jajarkot. Jajarkot is reached after climbing up the northern activity for 2 1/2 hours from the airstrip of Chaurjahari. The historical materials are currently preserved at the district office, district court and district revenue office. The district revenue office has sufficient number of documents relating to old trusts of those old documents, some deal in the particulars of the land dedicated as trust to the family deity of Jajarkot, goddesses, Bhairav and Saint gods by different individuals deal in the provisions of the ritual operations of the deities on special occasions to be conducted by the priests and other persons involved.

In the same way the judgements delivered by the kings of 22 principalities from time to time in respect of adultery, theft and land litigations and the Lal Mohars in sufficient number are dumped in racks without giving any importance at the Jajarkot court. All the documents of the principality of Jajarkot are currently preserved there. The chief district officer's office has preserved all the documents relating to the gifts of royal land to the nobles of the kingdom, general information, remuneration, the executive order issued to the subjects of Jajarkot for spanning a bridge over the Bheri and those relating to foreign relations with other states. For want of the knowledge of the local officials of those materials, the preservation of those documents has not been made.

Personal Collection

Basu Bikram Shah, officiating head master, resident of ward No. 1, Jaktipur village, district of Jajarkot, possesses the document with the old genealogy of the kings of Jajarkot and the old document describing the exploits (Karkha) of King Jakti Simha as sung by the bards of Jaktipur. He has specific information of the king of Jajarkot.

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His collection of documents is Nuwagaon, Bhur village of Jajarkot has a copper plate issued by King Jakti Simha Shah. But he is not willing the said copper plate to be exposed to the public eye. Besides it, he has other pieces of evidence.

Tej Bikram Shah, has innumerable documents of the king of Jajarkot. Out of those documents, a lecturer of Tribhuvan University took away one boxful of documents from his house according to the information given by the honourable member. Besides these, he has other pieces of evidence aplenty. Besides the manner of preservation is not well-organised. All these pieces of evidence may be examined provided that he is available there.

Gopal Prasad Acharya, of Jaktipur village, resident of ward No. 1 of the district of Jajarkot has four boxfuls of old manuscripts dealing in religious lore. He has a manuscripts dealing in the liturgy of Khodai Devata, Kshetrapal, Caturmala Bajai, goddesses, family deities (masto), weapons, satmula, red-faced deities as well as the description of the priests operating the rituals. Though no standard method of the preservation of the manuscripts and documents is not maintained there, but they are preserved in boxes row after row. As he is an affluent and well-respected person of the locality as well as the chief official of the village panchayat, any person desirous of going through those old manuscripts and documents can obtain them, but he must not be pre-occupied.

Hari Prasad Sharma, resident of ward No. 5, Handetola village in the district of Jajarkot, has in his house preserved a copper plate issued by King Malay Berma. Besides it, he is an astrologer by profession and has innumerable books on mathematics and astrology as well as calendars and horoscopes dumped. Any person going there can go through them.

Ishwari Jung Shah, resident of Khalanga, Jajarkot, has innumerable old documents, but is unwilling to show those documents to others. Hira Jung Shah, another royal collateral, has a copper plate and documents describing the diplomatic relations of the king of Jajarkot with the king of Jumla, the sales and purchase of horses, contract on the import of salt, customs, agreement and original petitions in great numbers.

Yogeshwar Karki, resident of Khalanga, Jajarkot, has important records relating to the administration of the king of Jajarkot. Of those pieces of evidence known to him, there is reference to King Malayabaman in a book written in memory of Rukmala Bajyu. the book was dated 1309 Shake (1387 A.D.). He is also a collector of old records.

Prior to going on an expedition for collecting historical documents of the district of Jajarkot, the researcher must go there at the favourable period when rain and snow fall do not interrupt his research. The district is in accessible and suffers from food shortage. Usually the collectors of historical materials belong to affluent and blue blood family, they extend cooperation as much as possible when the researcher approaches them. However, we must take it with a grain of salt that they would make all the materials in their possession available to the researchers as they are not found so liberal with the researchers.

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The District of Surkhet

The district of Surkhet is a district of the Bheri zone within the central western regional development sector. Birendranagar is the zonal headquarters of the Bheri zone and the district headquarters. The level land of this district lies at an altitude of 2,000 feet or 610 metres above the sea level. This district is bounded in the north by Dailekh and Jajarkot, in the south Banke and Bardia, Sallyan in the east and Doti, Achham and Kailali in the west. This district touches at nine other districts.

The level land of this district has unmacadamised roads where bullock carts ply and Birendranagar is linked with all other villages by foot trails and mule tracks. Specifically this district has nearest contact with the district of Banke so that Nepalgunj for going to and from Surkhet is the most frequented. The motorable road from Surkhet to Nepalgunj is considered the main highway. From its headquarters air-services to Nepalgunj, Dang, Bhairawa and Kathmandu are available. Barring the months of Ashadh, Shrawan and Bhadra (mid-June to mid-September), there is regular air service operated. In respect of communication facilities, postal and wireless services are available. The direct link of Birendranagar by wireless is established with Kathmandu, Rajapur, Jajarkot and Dailekh. This district has one town and 34 villages. Prior to the division of districts, this area was administered by Dailekh Gaunda and Sallyan and Dang Gaunda under the local administration.

In ancient time the valley of Surkhet was a large lake. According to the local tradition, a deity named Surdevata drained out the water of the valley and made it fit for cultivation and in commemoration of his feat this area was called Surkhetra (Surkhet). Originally this region was ruled by the Khasia Mallas. Later on the Berma and the Shahi dynasties successively ruled this region. In medieval days, this region was under the jurisdiction of Dailekh so that the history of Dailekh includes the history of this region. During the course of the unification campaign in 1789 A.D., the Gorkha army attacked Dailekh and amalgated the region including Surkhet in the kingdom of Nepal.

To the north of the market place of Surkhet lies the Uttarganga village. Relics are available there. There are images like Mangalgadhi, Rani Kadha, Bagdhunga and Phinikadha and other inscriptions. 12 pieces of documents were received from Hari Lal Thani, resident of ward No. 1 Uttarganga panchayat.

1. The document dated 1859 B.S. (1802 A.D.) of Dirgh Narayan Shah confirming the authority to collect taxes and rents.

2. The document dated 1879 B.S. (1822 A.D.) of Dinanath Shah appointing Musu Jaisi for handling criminal cases.

3. The document of Dinanath Shah dated 1881 B.S. (1824 A.D.) confirming Musu Padhya of his power to collect charges.

4. The document of prince Dinanath Shah dated 1885 B.S. (1828 A.D.) in respect of confirming his office.

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5. The document under the signature of Sardar Badri Ban Shah dated 1894 B.S. (1837 A.D.) empowering Bilakh Padhya of Lumsugram in relation to the operation of the rituals of Shri Bhairavnath.

6. The document under the signature of Kirtirukh Shah dated 1897 B.S. (1840 A.D.) for settling the people in the area specified.

7. The document under the signature of Kirtirukh Shah dated 1898 B.S. (1841 A.D.) authorizing Jaimini Padhya Thumal to operate the rituals of Bhairavnath.

8. The other document dated 1906 B.S. (1849 A.D.) for settling the people.

9. The document under the signature of Kul Man Basnyat dated 1906 B.S. (1849 A.D.) for settling the people.

10. The document dated 1918 B.S. (1861 A.D.) for settling the people in Surkhet.

11. The document issued by the revenue office of Surkhet dated 1998 B.S. (1935 A.D.) appointing Tularam Padhya to the office of the priest.

12. A short chronicle in possession of Hira Mani Neupane, the first person to come to Bayal Kadhagadhi (check point) of Surkhet from Taloni, Achham.

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The District of Dailekh

The district of Dailekh lies on the north west top of the Bheri zone as one of the hilly districts within the central western region development sector. Its district is located at the highest of 13,670 feet or 4,168 metres above the sea level. This district is bounded in the north by Kalikot, Surkhet in the south, Jajarkot in the east and the district of Achham in the west. For want to transport facilities this district is deemed inaccessible. It takes one and half day's trekking trip via the Ranimata pass, Surkhet and Dungeshwar to reach Dailekh. During the rainy season specifically the transport to and from the neighbouring district remains closed. As air service is available in Surkhet, it is considered the nearest neighbouring district. Wireless and postal services are available at the district headquarters. Direct wireless communication links with Kathmandu, Nepalgunj, Bardia, Surkhet and have been established. Prior to its integration in the kingdom of Nepal, it as under the subordination of twenty-two principalities. Prior to the division of districts, the geographic and administrative area of the Dailekh was much more comprehensive than the district of Dailekh now.

Only a few years before, the military officer's out post (Gauda) was located at Dailekh Bazar for the purpose of district administration. The district administration was operated from this out post by the district Chief (Bada Hakim). There are 75 villages within the district.

In ancient time the Dailekh region was a famous pilgrimage spot under the name of Panch Kosi. According to the version of some people, this place was called Dailekh as it was the home of the gods - Devlok, but this term 'Devlok' was later on corrupted and became Dailekh. Some people say that in ancient time a holy sage named Dadhichi practised austerities here and the place was called Dadhilok and the same term was perverted into Dailekh according to the local tradition. This region was ruled by the kings of the Naga dynasty. They were succeeded by the kings of the Shahi dynasty. General Amar Simha, Commanded Nepali troops during the unification campaign in 1789 A.D. conquered Dailekh. As the then King of Dullu - Uttam Shahi helped the Nepali troops, he was permitted to live as a princeling. The materials relating to historical source procured in this district run as follows.

Hemant Nath Yogi, Batuk Bhairav, Dailekh Bazar

There is an ancient shrine of Batuk Bhairav at Dailekh Bazar. The particulars of the documents obtained from Hemant Nath Yogi, the priest of Batuk Bhairav read like these:

1. A Lal Mohar dated Friday Kartik Sudi 12, 1870 B.S. (November 1813 A.D.) made for operating the routine rituals of the deity.

2. A document dated Wednesday Jestha Vadi 10, 1910 (June 1853 A.D.) executed for operating the routine rituals of Batuk Bhairav.

3. An executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated Wednesday Phalgun Sudi 13, 1937 B.S. (March 1880 A.D.) in respect of operating the routine rituals of the deity.

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4. The ordinance of premier Chandra Shumshere dated Tuesday the 16th of Marg, 1971 B.S., (December 1914 A.D.) for preservation.

Gopal Nath Shirasthan, Jwala Devi

After coming down the declivity for one and half hours walking from Dailekh Bazar, we come to the shrine of Shirrasthan Jwala Devi on the bank of the stream. The current priest of Shirasthan Jwala Devi is Gopal Nath. The documents received from him read like these:

1. A Lal Mohar dated 1883 B.S. (1826 A.D.) confirming the trust.

2. A Lal Mohar dated 1883 B.S. (1826 A.D.) directing the officials concerned to appoint an appropriate priest to the shrine.

3. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated 1912 B.S. (1855 A.D.) directing the persons concerned not to consult the documents relating to trust land at the office.

4. A Lal Mohar dated 1924 B.S. (1867 A.D.) regulating the felling of a tree for a ceremonial pole.

5. A regulation dated 1933 B.S. (1876 A.D.) providing for felling a tree to be used as a ceremonial post with a flag at the shrine of Shirrasthan.

6. An executive order dated 1942 B.S. (1885 A.d.) exempting the trust land from all kinds of taxation.

7. An executive order of the Commander-in-Chief dated 1942 B.S. (1885 A.D.) providing for making utensils out of sum collected from the feudal taxes.

Bhakti Nath Yogi, Navisthan Jwala Devi

After walking for half an hour along the stream from Shirasthan, we come to Navisthan Jwala Devi. Two priests - Bhim Nath Yogi and Mahant (abbot) Bhakti Nath Yogi - operate the rituals of the deity concurrently. The documents received from Bhakti Nath Yogi read like these:

1. A Lal Mohar dated 1873 B.S. (1816 A.D.) providing for the trust.

2. A Lal Mohar dated 1883 B.S. (1826 A.D.) directing the officials concerned to appoint an appropriate priest.

3. A Lal Mohar dated 1883 B.S. (1826 A.d.) confirming the retention of the trust.

4. The synopsis of the on-the-spot inquiry dated 1959 B.S. (1902 A.D.).

5. An executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief (Dui Chhape) dated 2004 B.S. (1947 A.D.).

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Mahanta Kaviraj, Dhuleswar

The documents received from Mahant Kaviraj, the priest of Dhuleswar, read like these:

1. The directive of Kulnarsimha Kunwar dated 1885 B.S. (1828 A.D.) to operate the rituals of the deity out of the income from the trust land when the rituals of the deity remained suspended.

2. A Lal Mohar dated 1890 B.S. (1833 A.D.) directing officials concerned to provide for additional trust land if the existing trust land fails to cover the expense.

3. A directive dated 1902 B.S. (1845 A.D.) to use the residue after operating the trust.

4. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated 1909 B.S. (1852 A.D.) providing for operating the rituals of the deity.

5. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief confirming the retention of the trust. It is dated 1930 B.S. (1873 A.D.).

6. An executive order relating to the trust dated 1997 B.S. (1930 A.D.).

On the way to the shrine of Dhuleswar there is an inscription dated 1277 Shake (1355 A.D.) on the temple of Baladurlaveswar. There is another inscription on the Dullu Pauwa Caravanserai dated 1741 Shake (1819 A.D.).

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The District of Sallyan

Of the five districts of the Rapti Zone, the district of Sallyan is one within the Central Western Region Development Sector. The headquarters of this district is Sallyan Bazar of the Chardahi village. This is also called Khalanga Bazar. The district is bounded in the west by Surkhet, Rolpa and Piuthan in the east, Rolpa and Jajarkot in the north and the district of Dang in the South. As the air service is available at Tulsipur, Dang, the nearest district of Sallyan is considered Dang. Besides it, there are routes to reach Sallyan from the east via Piuthan, from Surkhet in the west, from Jajarkot and from Dang Ghorahi and Nepalgunj in the south. The postal and wireless services are available in the district. There are forty-two villages in the district. Prior to the division of districts, there were 17 administrative units and this area remained as a military administrative out post. It is presumed that the name of the district - Sallyan - came from Sallyankot. The region of Sallyan in western Nepal was the base of operation of the Khasas. That is why this region is called Khasant (Khasa terminal). At the time of the unification of Nepal, it formed one constituent of twenty-two principalities. There was special relationship with the ruling dynasty of Sallyan as King Prithvi Narayan Shah had offered his daughter Bilas Kumari in marriage to Prince Ran Bhim Shah. After the conquest of twenty-two principalities, Bahadur Shah gave the fiefdom of Dang to Sallyan the suzerainty of Nepal. The contribution made by Sallyan during the unification process of Nepal is praise worthy. That is why the princes of Sallyan are entitled to use the Rajah appellation from generation to generation.

The manual of historical records of the princedom of Sallyan.

The Sallyan Revenue Office

The organization of the Sallyan Revenue Office was made during the Rana administration. As it was a military and administrative outpost of western Nepal, this office is abounds in historical materials of these materials that are open to public eyes, are the documents relating to the rent-free holdings of olden days, synopses, Lal Mohars, copper plates and executive orders of the kings and the Rana premiers. There are bagfuls of documents relating to the orders made from time to time to the princes and feudal lords to produce pieces of documentary evidence and the documents produced by them as evidence in support of their contention. Cursorily viewed, we can presume that the historical documents extent there number approximately 1500.

The Sallyan District Court

As a member of twenty-two principalities, the kingdom of Sallyan functioned as an independent entity with the court of the kingdom from the medieval days. After the unification of Nepal under King Prithvi Narayan Shah, the principality was authorized to decide suits involving even serious offences like sentencing the death, life-imprisonment, deprivation of caste, downgrading the caste by branding and losing the caste (Pancha Khat). the Sallyan district court is in possession of all the documents of the principality of Sallyan. There are 15 bagfuls of cloth bound bundles containing

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the documents relating to the administration of justice in the medieval period, the litigations - civil and criminal in the Shah and Rana administration, other suits, contiguous land ritual pollution, expatiatory formality, the decision of the religious head and the executive orders of the King of Sallyan.

The Phalawang Palace, Sallyan

The kingdom of Medieval Sallyan after the unification of Nepal got the recognition of a small chiefdom of feudal nature. When the relationship of Nepal with Sallyan faced rough weather during the administration of Bhimsen Thapa, the chiefdom of Sallyan was completely integrated into the kingdom of Nepal and the King of Sallyan was given a small area named Phalawang and was recognised as the head of a small feudal lord. In this way all the old documents of the Phalawang chiefdom are currently kept at the Phalawang palace. As some parts of Dang went under the jurisdiction of Sallyan, there are documents relating to Dang there in the archives. There are 15 boxes made of wood with documents.

The eastern wing of the Phalawang palace holds the documents of the Phalawang palace. In addition to the above-mentioned office and historical places of Sallyan, there are collections in the possessions of private individuals. The in short references are given below.

Yogi Narayan Nath (Royal Priest) of Phalawang

After the alliance of King Prithvi Narayan Shah, the great, with Krishna Shah, King of Sallyan was established, the matrimonial alliance between two kingdoms was conducted through the good offices of Swami Bhagawant Nath whose hermitage stands even now at Phalawang. Yogi Narayan Nath who has been following the same tradition possesses very important documents which can affect the history of Sallyan and throw light on it. But it is difficult to assume that the Yogi would expose the documents to the public eyes. The very ancient shrine of Yogi Ratan Nath is at Phalawang. Narayan Yogi as referred to above is a trustee of Bhairav Nath and the priest of Phalawang goddess. There are 12 pieces of cannon (big and small), musical instruments and other weapons that can be serviceable in warfare, including 25 ton copper in the palace of Phalawang built during the administration of Kala kings (now in a dilapidated condition). Some of these items are inside the temple of Phalawang but these items are not open to public eyes without the permission of Yogi Narayan. His collection of documents members 150 to 200, it is assumed, they are presumably important. He is addressed with respect as the royal preceptor.

Dhanraj Upadhyaya Lamichhane

Dhanraj Upadhyaya Lamichhane, resident of ward No. 5, Khalanga. His father, grand father, great grand fathers had been in possession of rent-free holdings (Birta) from the time of King Tula Shahi of Sallyan. As the scion of such persons he has hundreds of historical letters, Lal Mohar, executive orders (Rukka), petitions and the documents issued by the religious head. His books are preserved in bamboo baskets and wooden boxes to their holding capacities. The books, papers and palm-leaves in his custody are systematically preserved.

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Raja Yodhar Jang Shah of Malenti

Yodhar Jang had very many documents. Ghamand Bahadur Shah his descendants resident of Malnetakot had documents, but out of his entire collection one basketful of materials was taken away by his eldest son born from his illegitimate union with a Chhetriya (warrior-caste) caste concubine. Currently he resides at ward No. 2 of the Lachhimpur village panchayat, district, Kailali. In respect of his remaining documents after the death of Ghamand Bahadur Shah, his youngest son Himmat Bahadur Shah has retained the custody of the documents. Tek Bahadur Giri, Pradhan (Chief) Panch of the Dadagaon panchayat has taken all the documents in the possession of Himmat Bahadur to his own residence.

Narayan Prasad Upadhyaya, Chhyan Chhetra Village, Simkot

As Narayan Prasad Upadhyaya, has landed property in Dang as well, it is difficult to meet him. However, his house is replete with old records, documents, astromical books and cosmogonies (Purnas). As he belongs to the family of the priests of the kings of Sallyan, he has from the medieval period, writings, notes, records of events and analysis in their original form. It is difficult to say whether or not he is available for cooperation as he is preoccupied with various sorts of business. The method of his preservation is well organised. He would not part with the originals but copies of the originals can be made and brought. Most of the materials in his custody are documents, religious works, administrative and gifts-of-land-related documents, donation of rent-free holdings. His documents throw light on these issues.

Hari Prasad Shrestha, resident of Lohamjyula, ward No. 7, Tribeni Village District Sallyan

He has four bagfuls of documents kept in sacks and jute bags. His documents deal in business transactions, sales and purchases of goods, market prices, the rates of interest to be charged with the borrower, the borrowing and lending by the king, the manner of buying and selling slaves, male or female, seeking wet nurses and maid servants and the like.

Though a Newar by origin, he left his family business of trading and opted for agriculture. As an educated person, he is by nature cooperative. As his grand father was responsible for handling goods according to the choice of the King of Sallyan, he has settled at Lohamjyula.

Ishwari Bahadur Hamal, resident of ward No. 3, Khalanga village Sallyan.

The documents in the collection of Mr. Hamal deal mostly in economic, religious and cultural matters of the kingdom of Sallyan. This collection of documents has come down to him since the time of his grand fathers and beyond. He did not have any new method of preserving the collection of documents which are kept in bags made of cloth and dumpted in bundles. this is the usual practice in the locality.

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Jay Bahadur Shah, resident of ward No. 3, Bhalachaur Village Sallyan

The Bhalachaur village lies to the north-west of Khalanga, Sallyan. It is on the way to Jajarkot. He is known to all the people of the locality. As he was responsible for administering the region of Bhalachaur on behalf of the Raja of Sallyan for a long time, he has materials that can throw light on the history of Sallyan. His house has many ledger books. However, from the view point of records, there are about 300 serviceable materials. His method of preserving materials cannot be commended. Any person going to his residence can go through the documents and get their copies.

Subba Dev Bahadur Chand, resident of ward No. 5, Kotmanla Village, Sallyan

Dev Bahadur Chand, a Subba (senior administrative officer) for many years during the Rana administration, has rich experience in many areas. Moreover, he had functioned as a clerk at Alagaon on behalf of Simharaja Nitya Pratap Simha of Sallyan. As a result he has come to possess many historical documents, of the records in his possession, they deal mostly in social customs and manners, litigations, gift of rent-free holdings and other kinds of grant. The documents in his custody are open to observation. In respect of procuring original documents, they can be obtained provided that he is convinced. His method of preservation of documents is not commendable to the extent desired. They are rarely consulted and opened once a year, the practice of storing such items in inaccessible nooks and corners is extent.

Dandapani Regmi, Phalawang, Sallyan

Dandapani Regmi resides at ward No. 4 of Dadarbuli village in the district of Dang. He has plenty of Lal Mohars of the kings of Phalawang and Sallyan. In course of transferring the assets from the hill settlement to the plain below, he has taken the records to the Tarai. He has plenty of manuscripts dealing in old astrology, scriptures and socio-cultural rituals. He is not interested in handing over those books to any individual or institution. If any person goes there for observation and study, he has allowed copies of the works he has. He has about 500 items consisting of Lal Mohars, executive orders and general instructions, together with 2 loadfuls of manuscripts. The preservation of these materials in his possession is commendable but the way of maintaining them is traditional. His grand father and his great grand fathers were priests when the kings of Sallyan were in office, the agreements and notes of that period may be observed.

Jyoti Man Simha Thapa, resident of Khalanga Ward No. 2, Sallyan

When the princes of twenty-two principalities wanted to appoint ministers (Kazi) with a view to operating the administration in an organized manner, first preference was given in appointment to persons of Khas or Chhetri caste. The principal function of the minister (Kazi) was to provide intellectual and physical amenities to the king. In appreciation of the services rendered by them, additional remuneration through royal executive orders with a view to making him prosperous and his tenure of office certain was granted. That was the traditional practice.

After the unification of Nepal, the tradition of employing the persons of Chhetri

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caste is maintained. Similarly Jyoti Man Simha Thapa of Sallyan belong to the family of the ministers of the kings of Sallyan. that is why he has in his collection pieces of evidence that can throw light on historical, cultural and archaeological matters. As he has been used to storing the documents in bundles for many years, smoke and dirt have coated them. As he has 8 bundles of documents that can be held within the arms in his store, those documents would be able to throw light on many aspects of Sallyan from time to time. Of those documents, executive orders, Lal Mohars, religious deeds, promissory notes, fiscal transactions and litigational matters tower over other matters. While going there in course of research, we are told that many documents were destroyed, consigned to flames or thrown away so that it is difficult to procure documents. Another factor is there was no practice of the various documents placed at difficult places to have copies made therefrom. For example, there was no practice of maintaining the duplicate copies of the proclamations of the medieval kings and the twenty-two principalities for maintaining traditional practices, grant of rent-free holdings and deeds of charity. That practice remained as it was even after the unification of Nepal. Later on the practice of preparing duplicate copies of the documents sent from the centre came in being. the tradition of making only one copy of such documents in the twenty-two and twenty-four principalities and giving such a copy only to a party directly concerned with it made it difficult to get copies of the materials and documents in that part of the region. That is why the materials from those places must be traced at the appropriate time.

Dharmananda Bhattarai of Golokpur Ward No. 5, Badhagaon, Sallyan

The princedom of Sallyan has five administrative units subordinate to it. Badgaon is one of such administrative units. The term "Thapaula" means a kingdom within a kingdom. The head of such a sub-kingdom is usually a member of the royal family of Sallyan. Such persons were endowed with administrative judicial and fiscal powers. They were entitled to represent their executive orders relating to administration to the King of Sallyan straight away, but such sub-kingdoms did not have separate entities and major decisions were made from the centre - Khalanga, Dharmananda Bhattarai who has been functioning as the royal astrologer of the princedom of Badgaon for generations, is a Jaisi Brahmin expert in astrology.

He is also a collector of materials that can support history, culture and archaeology. That region is greatly influenced by his perseverance and exertion. He makes frequent trips to the neighbouring princes of small principalities on his astrological business. In this context he has been collecting plenty of copper plates, Lal Mohars, executive orders, genealogies, together with the works on astrology. The member of his collection cannot be ascertained definitely, but a person researching on the twenty-two principalities must pay a visit to Dharmananda Bhattarai. Once a researcher goes there on his mission, he can convince the person with the pieces of evidence in his possession. His house is full of historical genealogy, documents, books, notes of old events and other writings. He is ever ready to make a selection of those materials. He will let the copies of the materials in his possession taken away but he would not part with his original.

The documents, books, calendars and Lal Mohars in the possession of Dharmananda Bhattarai exceed 2500. The security of the materials and their storage are not modern but they are kept in a separate house as a means of preserving them

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within the framework of his knowledge so that the situation is not alarming as they are not exposed to the access of the rats, smoke and children.

The names of other collectors: (materials relating to the principality of Sallyan):

(a) Krishna Shah and Surya Man Shah, sons of Chhetra Bahadur Shah, deceased, resident of Patunmath village, Dang has Lal Mohars and copper plates of the kings of Sallyan.

(b) Prem Raj Regmi, resident of ward No. 1 Sejwal Takura village has a collection of old Lal Mohars.

(c) Rajendra Kumar K.C., resident of ward No. 1 Shaligrampuri village has also historical materials.

(d) Dhana Bahadur, resident of ward No. 3, Siddheshwar village Sallyan, has also Lal Mohars.

(e) Tek Nath Gautam, resident of ward No. 8, Hapur village in the district of Dang, has also old records of the principality of Bajhang as well as pieces of evidence. He has also knowledge of such materials.

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The District of Rolpa

The district of Rolpa out of 5 districts of Rapti Zone under Central Western Region Development Sector is the largest. The district headquarters of Rolpa is Siwang. The district in the east is bounded by Baglung and Gulmi, Jajarkot in the west, Rukum in the north and Sallyan and Piuthan in the south. As the district is surrounded by hills and summits, it suffers considerably from the view point of transport, of the most frequented routes for transport, the most popular is Ghorahi - Liwang route. It takes 2 days' trekking journey to reach Liwang from Ghorahi. Liwang can be reached via Juaragola from Tulsipur, Dang, but this is less frequented and very far Liwang can be reached from Piuthan in two days while it takes three days from Sallyan. This district has 54 villages. In respect of communications, postal and wireless services are available. Prior to the division of districts, this district lay partly in Sallyan and partly in Piuthan. After the partition of the districts, this district was carved out of some portion of Sallyan and Piuthan.

In course of the unification campaign of Nepal, prince Bahadur Shah with the cooperation of King Mahadatt Sen of Palpa conquered the twenty - principalities and amalgated them into the kingdom of Nepal. Originally this district was a part of the district of Piuthan and the currently existing district office, revenue office and Rolpa district court were constituted not very long ago so that this district has historical records. As this district of Rolpa was a part of twenty-two principalities during the medieval period of Nepal, its historical importance is intact. That is the reason why the government offices set up later on are full of such materials. We have to make intensive search for them.

Historical Records manual of the district of Rolpa, Surya Bahadur Shah, resident of Ward No. 1 Dhoragaon

Surya Bahadur Shah is a political activist. According to his version, the relationship of his family with the royal palace of Nepal goes back to the days of King Pratak Simha. His grand father was the son-in-law of Sher Bahadur Shahi son of Pratap Simha born out of union with a concubine), brother of King Ram Bahadur Shah through his marriage with Sher Bahadur Shahi's daughter. In connection with that matrimonial alliance, King Girvan Yuddha Bikram Shah had issued a copper plate in favour of his fore fathers. There are plenty of exchanges of original letters from the royal palace in Kathmandu and the copies of the replies from Rolpa to the royal palace. Together with those letters, it is believed that has the collection of historical documents as the executive orders, customs and manners and proclamations sent from the centre addressed to the tax collectors, village chiefs tenants, senior government officials and junior officials within the district of Piuthan under their jurisdiction are sent and processed through them, of the documents in his possession, the majority of them is mostly historical.

The preservation of documents in his possession is almost nil. As he has dumped those documents in baskets, it is repulsive even to the viewer. In respect of the documents granting them rent- free holdings and other pieces of land as

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remuneration, they are safety preserved in wooden boxes. If anybody can convince him of his genuine requirement, the papers can be viewed and their copies made.

The documents in the possession of Surya Bahadur Shah throw light specially on historical events from the time of King Pratap Simha as well as the social, economic and political conditions of Piuthan and Rolpa. As the principalities of Piuthan, Rolpa and Rukum were specifically opposed to the unification process of Nepal, the matrimonial alliance with the members of the royal family of those principalities with a view to improving the worsening relationship of Nepal with them must be deemed to be remarkable. As there was, in addition to these, close relationship of Piuthan, Rolpa and Rukum principalities with King Ranjit Malla of Bhadgaon, documents throwing light on such events have been recorded here so that reference with special emphasis to that issue has been highlighted.

Surya Prachand Sen youngest son of the Khumrikot palace and resident of Ward No. 4, Khumri Village

Of the twenty two principalities of the Karnali region, the principality of Khumri is referred to. Currently this lies to the south of the Rolpa district and north to Chaturbhuj. According to sources recovered from that region it is learnt that the medieval kings of Khumri belonged to the Sen dynasty. Surya Prachand Sen just referred to above has a collection of ample historical documents. Of the documents in his possession, there are plenty of old manuscripts specially dealing in the genealogies and the role of succession among the kings of twenty-two and twenty-four principalities, their mutual relations, their existing controversies and disputes, their battles and their friendship are described. Besides these sources, that Rajah has in his possession old cosmogonies (Puranas) and similar works on astrology, medicine, pharmacology, hawk-hunting clue, hypnotism, magic, esoterism, irresistable attraction and in numerable manuscripts with various kinds of drawings and pictures.

The major reasons why he has such materials just referred to above are: he is the youngest member of the royal family of that place and he has got ample opportunities to be literate. He is educated, laborious and discerning. The materials in his collection are not open to perusal or copying for each and everybody. To go through the materials in his possession is a Herculean task and in surmountable difficulties confront the researcher. The management of the documents and manuscripts in his possession is logical. He has preserved the documents to the best of his intelligence and knowledge.

Rajah Phatte Prachand Sen of Khumrikot, Ward No. 8, Khumri Village

Rajah Phatte Prachand Sen of Khumrikot in the district of Rolpa is the successor of the medieval principality out of twenty-two and a person receiving life-long maintenance allowance as a princeling. He is entitled to receive the allowance as long as he lives and after his death this provision is terminated. As a member of the ruling family, his possession of historical records are understandable. This princeling has calendars and old works since the medieval period. Of his possessional documents, the major documents are the Lal Mohars relating to the princedom, executive orders, petitions, plaints (phirad patra), respondent's rejoinder, decrees of the suits, the customs

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and manners to be effected, the order of the religious head, rent-free holdings, gifts, endowments and other documents relating to state-owned land.

The recipient of an elephant and a chair on the marriage of the kings of Nepal and sending dowry on the marriage of princesses of Nepal and recipient of a scarf and title during the coronation, the prince's fore fathers of this mountainous country had contributed much to the unification of Nepal campaign as well as to the war against Tibet launched by Rana Jung Bahadur. For their the then roles there is no wonder that the prince's prestige is high currently. Besides these, he has in his collection pieces of evidence of various periods lending support to those matters. The preservation process of the documents and volumes in his custody is commendable.

Any history research or epigraphist going to him receives favourable response from him. This is his practice. Anybody wishing to go through his materials should report that he has come from the capital and there is every possibility that they will be open to study provided that he is convinced of the relevance of the situation. As his land property is also there in Dang, he sometimes resides in Dang. But he, thinks his hill side house his home where preserves and prrotects the documents.

Til Bikram Sen, resident of Ward No. 6, Gajul Village

Gajulkot situated in the Rolpa district is one of the group of twenty-two principalities. The princes of these principalities belong to the Sen dynasty, one factor that is to be noted here is that the Khumral rulers of Khumrikot and Gajule kings of Gajulkot though belonging to the same dynasty were the rulers of different principalities. Therefore the principality of Gajul being a principality, there is no doubt that it was a historical princedom. The descendants of the rulers of Gajulkot do not currently receive princeling allowance.

By virtue of being a descendant of the Rajah of Gajul, Til Bikram Sen has many historical records. From the perusal of the documents in his possession, the correspondence among the rulers of twenty-two principalities with the rulers of the summit princedom, together with the exchange of letters of Chhilli, Dang, Bhitrikot, Piuthan with Udayapur can be known from the sources extant with the dynasty of Gajulkot. After the unification of Nepal, this princedom was merged with Nepal so he has more documents relating to the period of pre-merger than post-merger. Besides documents, he has copper plates. Those materials may help find out facts about the contemporary conditions of the principalities in the middle age. As the member of literate people in those days was minimal the paucity of the contemporary written records is understandable. There is the ancient practice of operating rituals on the occasion of spring and autumn festival at Gajulkot. Such customs are being observed without a break.

It is possible to go through the collection in the possession of Til Bikram with the aid of the person who is locally influential. No provision has been made for safe-keeping his collection, but it is stored.

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Hem Simha Pun Magar, resident of ward No. 4, Jamkot village

When Rolpa was an independent kingdom, Jamkot was a small district subordinate to Rolpa. Though this region was ruled by the Thakuris, the settlement of the Magars out numbers others. The king of Rolpa had made a Magar administrator of Jamkot. That is why the Magars of the Jamkot area own documents, pieces of evidence and copper plates relating to twenty-two principalities.

Of the materials recovered from Him Simha Pun Magar, include largely the genealogical history of the Magars, chronicle of the kings of Rolpa and Lal Mohars. According to his version, others materials will be available in his village if efforts are made to procure them. For that purpose we must go there when we are free. The records recovered there have contemporary administrative, cultural and dramatic importance. The Magars of Gajuls and Jamkot were specially expert in handling bows and arrows made of bamboo so that they were deployed in the army and the protection of the royal palace and forts.

There was no systematic method of preservation of the documents in the possession of Him Simha Pun Magar. If any scholar of history, researchers or explorers go there, these materials are open to inspection. However, the people of the locality do not take outsiders into their confidence. After meeting Hem Simha just referred to, if we make a tour of the locality escorted by a person deputed by him, other records which are not in his possession can also be are not in his possession can also be procured because he is the wealthy man of the village and is noble. Rolpa is an inaccessible district and Jamkot is most inaccessible. There is every possibility of recovering abundant historical records provided that we can get assimilated into their society.

Tej Prasad Adhikari, resident of ward No. 3, Khumri Sera village

Tej Prasad Adhikari who is born in the family of the Adhikaris whose relationship with the Sen kings of Khumri goes back to the medieval period has still the collection of historical materials relating to the kingdom of Simri Bhringi even now. Among other persons Tej Prakash, a scholar of astrology in the rural community or Tej Prasad is known as collector of manuscripts. As he has carried on business activities recently, there are indications that he has given less and less attention to his literary pursuit and collection of manuscripts.

Of the records in possession of Tej Prasad are the manuscripts of the Sarrlat, the Ramayanat, the Makarand and the Bhaswati (works on astrology), old horoscopes, together with those of ritualistic operations prescribed by the Vedas (Karmakanda), Vedas, and small puranas (cosmogonies). The manuscripts exceed 150. He has not got many pieces of Lal Mohars and letters that have relevance to history. The manuscripts in his possession are open to inspection but they cannot taken away. It is humanly impossible to get the duplicate copies of the manuscripts in his possession. Whatever may be, he is a man cooperative in nature, it is possible to procure materials at places pointed out by him as well as those in his own possession.

That gentleman named Tej Prasad has preserved the manuscripts in his possession with covers made of cloths folded together.

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Nityanand Pokharel, Thakur Prasad Pokharel and Khubiram Pokharel, residents of ward No. 3, Bhringi

Of the twenty-two principalities in the Karnali region, the princedom of Khumrikot was recognised as a separate kingdom both by the foreign and native historians, but it is entirely erroneous because Bhringikot is only a district subordinate to the principality of Piuthan. It was an independent kingdom with a separate entity. But it is an ancient region (Thum). This kingdom had a levy (Rakam). That levy is the trustees bring kids there to be sacrificed. When girls are offered in marriages or when a grandson or a granddaughter is born, this practice of offering kids at Bhringikot is current. Some people have maintained this tradition even now. The Pokharels mentioned above are the land-owners and trustees of Khumrikot. They have in their possession abundant supply of letters conferring upon them powers and privileges by the kings of Khumrikot (Bhitrikot?). Besides this, Bhringikot is a God-fearing reason. The locality is populated with educated and orthodox Brahmins. In addition to this, Mahaprabhu Narayan Baba of Suargadwari brought renaissance there and passed away. The Brahmins with Pokharel Surnames from their very childhood are affluent, scholarly and well-bred. They have preserved old manuscripts under different partitions and they have preserved old documents under tight security. But they have no archaeological knowledge but they are under the impression that old documents if preserved in tact would be useful in future.

The Pokhrel brothers are advanced in age. They have the wrong nation of the new-comers or researchers that they have come there to dispossess them of the trust lands or they are civil servants out to extort money from them by imposing fines or police personnel in civilian dress for the aforesaid purpose. That is why such person with a pure heart goes there with patience and equaminity will be able to copy the materials extent there. If the collection in their possession can be studied, there is every possibility of obtaining information about scriptures, the history of Piuthan, genealogical history and social culture of the region.

Khadanand Subedi, advanced in age, Chairman, peasants' organisation, Rapti Zone, resident of Ward No. 5, Gajulkot village

That the region of Gajulkot within the district of Rolpa was a historical site has been referred above. The genealogical history in the collection of Khadanand shows that Kalanand Padhya, the spiritual teacher of the Sen kings of Gajulkot was a Subedi. So the generation from the time of Kalanand to the present comes to twenty according to the information available there, but the family tree containing the names of the brothers in the generation has madict seemingly large. That the kingdom of Gajulkot was founded in 1509 B.S. (1452 A.D.) according to the wood carving found at the temple of a goddess built at the armoury there.

The propriety of his possession of historical records is attributed to Khadanand Subedi's being the descendant of the royal spiritual teachers. In his collection of documents, there are genealogical history, Lal Mohars, executive orders, premier's order with the sword imprint, manuscripts of ritualism, cosmogies (purana), Vedas in abundance. He has thorough knowledge of historical assets. The arrangement for the protection of the materials in his possession has been adequately made. As an

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educated, high born personality of national characters, there is no doubt about his profound knowledge.

The collected manuscripts of records in his possession can throw much light on the historical, cultural and social glimpses of the twenty-two principalities. The security, preservation and supplementation of his entire collection of materials are being operated in an organised manner. Any person in course of his historical and archaeological mission goes to Gajulkot and meets him, his objective will be accomplished.

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The District of Dang

Dang situated within the Central Western Region Development Sector is a district of Rolpa made of inner Tarai and hilly regions. The most fertile lands with the maximum surplus of food grains within the Rapti Zone are extent here. The Mahendra Highway linking this zone touches at the eastern side of the district via Bhaluwang and passes through its western side and runs to the Banke district. The Rapti, the largest river of the region flows east-west parallel with the Mahendra Highway through the middle of the district. The zonal headquarters is also at Tulsipur of the district.

The name of this district made of two valleys of Dang and Deukhuri is Dang-Deukhuri. The inner Tarai region of this district lies at an altitude of 800 feet above the sea-level and the summits of the Mahabharat range are 6,749 feet high on the average. This district is bounded by some parts of the district of Piuthan in the east, together with Arghakhanchi of Lumbini Zone and Kapilvastu, Surkhet of the Bheri Zone in the west, together with Banke, Sallyan and Piuthan in the north and Uttar Pradesh, India in the south. The district headquarters is located at Tribhuvannagar, Ghorahi, in the Dang valley. This district has one town Tribhuvannagar and 39 village.

The district of Dang seems to possess the documents listed below.

Tek Bahadur Chandhari, resident of Gandawa Ward No. 7, Duruwa village has very ancient documents of the Tharu kings of the Choudhuris in considerable numbers, together with coins, copper plates and Lal Mohars.

The collected materials in possession of Dev Bahadur K.C., resident of Tulsipur, Dang.

1. A Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Ashadh Vadi 7, 1877 (June 1820 A.D.) granting rent-free holding (Birta).

2. A document dated Chaitra Sudi 11, 1950 B.S. (April 1893 A.D.) in respect of the sales of lands and their purchase by the subjects at the rate bought and sold for the office of Phalawang, Sallyan.

3. The order of the court of Sallyan to take over the office assigned and make the place pleasant. It is dated Ashadh Sudi 4, 1950 B.S. (July 1893 A.D.).

4. The authorization letter dated Magh Sudi 12, 1951 B.S. (February 1894 A.D.) confirming the office of the noble to Lod Bahadur Khatri of Patu Khola.

5. The executive order of the queen of Sallyan to restore the payment of 300 muris of paddy remaining unpaid for wages and labour charges. It is dated Friday, Jestha Sudi 10, 1952 B.S. (June 1895 A.D.).

6. The document dated Magh 7, 1964 B.S. (January 1907 A.D.) acknowledging the receipt through Padma Jung Malla of the sum payable to the as the dowry to the princess on the occasion of marriage in 1953 B.S. (1896 A.D.). The dowry sum was outstanding.

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7. The executive order of the premier counter signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated Friday, Jestha Sudi 10, 1953 B.S. (June 1896 A.D.) in respect of misappropriation of land and dispossessing the land of the tenant keeping his land barren and restore the rent thereof to Lod Bahadur in the manner prescribed by law.

8. The authorization letter given to Kul Bahadur dated Sunday, Bhadra 11, 1985 B.S. (August 1928 A.d.) directing him to act as provided under rules and regulations and forbidding him from harassing the tenants.

9. The instruction of Colonel Durga Shumshere to the prince of Sallyan directing the latter to act as provided in respect of the suits brought to his notice. It is dated Ashadh Sudi 15, 1956 B.S. (July 1899 A.D.).

10. The document dated Saturday, Marga Sudi 12, 1956 B.S. (December 1899 A.D.) of the prince of Sallyan in respect of selling the items through state-owned banking office (Tejarath). 16 pieces of suits of these natures dated 1956- 1959 B.S. (1899-1902 A.D.).

11. An edict dated Thursday, Baisakh Sudi 1, 1956 B.S. (May 1900 A.D.) directing the officials to decide suits impartially, and abstain from taking illegal gratification, stealing and fabricating documents with a view to gaining benefit. They are required to act honestly as dictated by their conscience.

12. Two vouchers of the suits acknowledged by the prince of Sallyan from 1956-1958 B.S. (1899-1901 A.D.).

13. The executive order dated Thursday, Phalgun Sudi 14, 1956 B.S. (March 1900 A.D.) directing the ferry men to ferry free of cost the bearers carrying money from Dang and Sallyan as well as 18 soldiers escorting them.

14. A petition dated Baisakh Vadi, 1957 B.S. (April 1900 A.D.) submitted by the prince of Sallyan to the premier praying the latter to let him dig a canal under section 2 of the law relating to land cultivation and issue general information in compliance with the law of the country.

15. An executive order under signature of the prince of Sallyan to act as instructed in respect of the suits brought to his attention. It is dated Marga Vadi 13, 1957 B.S. (November 1900 A.D.).

16. The instruction dated Baisakh Vadi 4, 1957 B.S. (April 1900 A.D.) empowering the prince of Sallyan to decide suits specified under his signature.

17. The command of the premier dated Shrawan Sudi 7, 1957 B.S. (August 1900 A.D.) to decide the suits specified in the manner provided in law under the signatures of the prince and the princess of Sallyan.

18. The authorization letter with the signature of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated Shrawan 2, 1957 B.S. (August 1900 A.D.) directing the prince of Sallyan to provide land for the tenants of Patu.

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19. The petition of the tenant addressed to the prince of Sallyan submitted to him through the revenue office, Phalawang that he is willing to pay the rent and other charges payable from year to year. It is dated 1958 B.S. (1901 A.D.).

20. A document of Tikapatu Khola of Tikapatti, Katapata Khola, district, Dang, within the principality of Phalawang. It is dated 1958 B.S. (1901 A.D.).

21. The executive order of the princess of Sallyan dated Kartik Sudi 3, 1959 B.S. November 1902 A.D.) remitting all irregularities and oral claims.

22. A document directing to send the authorization letter of the rent-free holdings of Patu Khola. It is dated Tuesday, Ashadh 32,1962 B.S. (July 1905 A.D.).

23. The document of Harshat Tharu the landlord dated Phalgun 11, 1965 B.S. (February 1909 A.D.) to cultivate the land honestly or the person so authorized shall be dispossessed of the land under the provision of law.

24. The authorization letter from the revenue office of Phalawang dated Shrawan 28, 1965 B.S. (August 1908 A.D.) directing to make an estimate for providing loans to Indra Bahadur, the landlord of the Patu Khola village.

25. The ordinance dated 1968 B.S. (1911 A.D.) directing the office concerned not to collect the fees of the chief royal preceptor with effect from the first of Kartik 1968 B.s. (November 1911 A.D.).

26. The executive order dated Ashadh 9, 1968 B.S. (June 1911 A.D.) issued by the prince of Sallyan instructing Lod Bahadur Khatri, the landlord of the village of tika at Pato Khola not to exact forced labour (Jhara).

27. The document dated Jestha 18, 1968 B.S. (May 1911 A.D.) directing the borrower to pay back the sum borrowed according to the promissory note made.

28. The document dated Jestha 21, 1968 B.S. (June 1911 A.D.) remitting the tenants of Bechu Khatri from the payment of rent with effect from 1968 B.s. (1911 A.D.).

29. A notice dated Wednesday, Jestha 15, 1970 B.S. (May 1913 A.D.) served on Bechu Khatri by the revenue office, Dang within the principality of Phalawang to get cash out of the sales of goods in the possession of the judge (Dittha).

30. The executive order of the premier with the sword imprint (Khadga Nishana) dated Ashwin 1970 B.S. (October 1913 A.D.) confirming the gift of land of Phalawang, Dang made by Prince Narendra Bahadur Shah of Sallyan to 28 priests and one preceptor with the princedom.

31. A document dated Shrawan 22, 1972 B.S. (August 1915 A.D.) with the stamp of the local court certifying that the person named has undergone self-reproach (Patiya) ceremony.

32. The certificate acknowledging the issuance of the conducting of self-reproach ceremony before the court of Sallyan. The document contains the seal of the religious head. It is dated Friday, Shrawan 22, 1972 B.S. (August 1915 A.D.).

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33. A document dated Baisakh 16, 1975 B.S. (April 1918 A.D.) instructing the revenue office of Dang to collect revenue of the place under its jurisdiction on year to year basis.

The collected materials at Chaughera library at the Shrine of the Saint, Ratna Nath

1. The inscription on the seat of saint Ratna Nath, the protector of the cows and deities. It is dated 1690 Shake (1825 B.S.) or 1768 A.D. The seat of the saint was presented by Yogeswar Gopi Nath, Yogeswar Kashi Nath, disciple of Haridwar Nath. They were the spiritual teacher of Naval Simha and Saheb Daler Simha. The architect was Bhansaram Sunar (bronze-caster).

2. A piece of palm-leaf dated 494 Nepal era (1430 B.S.) or 1274 A.D. (manuscript).

3. A book on Ayurvedic medicine named "Anangrang" (manuscript) offered by Nar Bahadur Simha in Chaitra 1823 B.S. (March 1767 A.d.).

4. A treatise on the Ayurvedic medicine without date. 1

5. A book (manuscript) named "Navagrrahastotra" (a song of nine planets) dated 1924 B.S. (1867 A.D.). 1

6. A collection of 5 esoterics (manuscript) dated 1963 B.S. (1906 A.D.). 1

7. An old manuscript without date. It is called Rajastotra (a song of the king). The book begins with the words. Here begins Rajastotrra. 1

8. The copy of the Lal Mohar providing land for the endowment. It is dated 1894 B.S. (1837 A.D.).

9. A painting of Lord Bishoroopa prepared in 1998 B.S. (1941 A.D).

10. Two pieces of paintings of old manuscripts. 2

11. A bundle of Nepal papers containing the history of Nepal from 790 N.S. (1670 A.D.) to 1942 B.S. (1885 A.D.). 1

12. An executive order (Rukka) providing for operating the routine rituals of Shri Vatile Devata and Rana Saini Devi of Bajura.

13. A copy of the Lal Mohar providing land as trust for operating the rituals of Badi Malika of Bajura.

14. A book on medicine, together with the counsel of the Saint by person (manuscript without date but very old). 1

15. A manuscript scribed by Gunakar dated 1943 B.S. (1886 A.D.). The colophon reads. This work named Laghu Kaumudi was scribed by Gunakar, the scholar. It is dedicated to Goddess Kali. 1

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17. The copy of the Lal Mohar of Karki Ruja (old) dated Wednesday the 5th of Marg, 1566 Shake (1701 B.S.) or 1644 A.D.). 1

18. The letter of 1981 B.S. (1924 A.D.). 1

19. The receipt (old) relating to the trust of Kailash Devata of Bajura.

20. The bond dated Thursday Phalgun Sudi 4, 1907 B.S. (March 1850 A.D.). 1

21. A note dated 1912 B.S. (1855 A.D.). 1

22. A document dated 1978 B.S. (1921 A.D.) in respect of the contract of Achham. 1

23. A document donating land for operating the trust of Kailash Devata of Bajurra (the date is Jestha 18, 1965 B.S. (June 1908 A.D.). 1

24. The document relating to the operation of the trust of Nateswari Devi of Bajura Marg Sudi 6, 1957 B.S. November 1900 A.D.). 1

The documents in the possession of the abbot of the monastery of Saint Ratna Nath

1. The re-confirmation of the Lal Mohar dated 1866 B.S. (1809 A.D.) providing for operating the rituals of the deity by king Girvan. A fresh Lal Mohar made on Thursday Baisakh Sudi 11, 1883 B.S. (May 1826 A.D.) by King Rajendra.

2. A Lal Mohar dated Baisakh Vadi Sunday (April) confirming the grant of the house, lands, monastery and other assets made by the former king of Dang when he was in office. (The document bears no date.) It states that the king was residing in Kathmandu. 1

3. A Lal Mohar dated Thursday Magh Vadi 30, 1898 B.S. (January 1842 A.D.) commanding the person affect to maintain old customs and manners and cultivate the land. 1

4. The Lal Mohar dated Thursday Phalgun Vadi 3, 1866 B.S. (February 1810 A.D.) confirming the retention old practices. 1

5. The Lal Mohar dated Friday, Shrawan Vadi 14, 1895 B.S. (July 1838 A.D.) directing the prince of Dang to decide the suit relating to Ratna Nath impartially with the presence of the monk of that particular sect. 1

6. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief (Duichhape) dated Thursday, Kartik Vadi 1, 1895 B.S. (October 1838 A.D.) directing the officials concerned to settle the dispute relating to water course. 1

7. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated 1938 B.S. (1881 A.D.) directing the officials concerned to collect the registration fee in the manner stated in the petition dated 1938 B.S. (1881 A.D.). 1

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8. The executive order of Daksha Shah dated Thursday, Magh Sudi 14, 1891 B.S. (February 1835 A.D.) directing the subjects of Dang that they help as the construction of the temple of Ratna Nath as well as other buildings remained unbuilt for want of labourers and materials.

9. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief directing the officials concerned not to sell the elephant belonging to the monastery of Ratna Nath. It is dated Wednesday, Chaitra Vadi 14, 1899 B.S. (March 1843 A.D.).

10. The Lal Mohar for operating the rituals of Ratna Nath was made. Henceforth no dispute over the issue be made. An authorization from the Commander-in-Chief to that effect was made on Thursday, Chaitra Sudi 1, 186.. B.S. (March 181.. A.D.).

11. The authorization letter dated Tuesday, Ashadh Vadi 12, 1895 B.S. (June 1838 A.D.) directing the tenants not to dismantle the embankment and damage the water-course.

12. The executive order dated Saturday, Ashwin 6, 1869 B.s. (October 1812 A.D.) directing the persons not to divert the water-course of Dandagaon. Non-feasance shall invite fines.

13. The authorization letter dated Sunday, Marga Sudi 1, 1875 B.S. (November 1818 A.D.) that the officer based at Sallyan pay the sum incurred in the operation of annual function at the quadrangle of Ratna Nath.

14. The executive order dated Friday, Baisakh Sudi 5, 1885 B.S. (May 1828 A.d.) directing the parties concerned not to dispute over the frontal use of the water-course or water fallen down the hill.

15. An executive order dated Sunday, Ashwin Vadi 4, 1911 B.S. (October 1854 A.D.) directing the parties affected not to harass Hiranath.

16. The executive order dated Wednesday, Shrawan Vadi 2, 1874 B.S. (July 1817 A.D.) directing the persons concerned to supply the articles required for operating the rituals of Ratna Nath through its store-keeper.

17. The executive order dated Monday, Poush Vadi 6, 1904 B.S. (December 1847 A.D.) directing the officials concerned to capture the elephant and hand it over to the monastery of Ratna Nath.

18. The executive order dated Thursday, Baisakh Sudi 15, 1907 B.S. (May 1850 A.D.) directing the officials concerned that they shall be responsible for the money and materials payable by Hirranath.

19. The executive order signed by the premier and counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief that the elephant be driven back to the forest by firing it commits depredation. It is dated Sunday, Bhadra Sudi 2, 1907 B.S. (September 1850 A.D.).

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20. The executive order of the Commander-in-Chief dated Tuesday, Jestha Vadi 11, 1967 B.S. (May 1910 A.D.) directing the people not to impose forced labour.

21. The executive order dated Tuesday, Phalgun Vadi 4, 1894 B.S. (March 1837 A.D.) directing the persons concerned to bring timber for construction of the temple of Ratna Nath.

22. The order of Rudra Bir Shah dated Thursday, Bhadra Vadi 13, 1869 B.S. (August 1822 A.D.) directing Rup Nath and the abbot of the monastery to appear before him for settlement of the dispute over the office of the store-keeper.

23. The executive order dated Saturday, Poush Sudi 8, 1890 B.S. (January 1834 A.D.) directing the officials concerned to make timber available for the construction of well-built mansion.

24. The executive order dated Thursday, Jesth Vadi 8, 1868 B.S. (May 1811 A.D.) directing the officials concerned not to collect extra charges in the village covered by an endowment.

25. The executive order dated Sunday, Jesth Vadi 30, 1866 B.S. (June 1809 A.D.) to keep on going the service of the deity as usual.

26. The executive order dated Wednesday, Baisakh Sudi 9, 1885 B.S. (May 1828 A.D.) directing the parties concerned to release water to the fields according to the traditional practice.

27. The executive order dated Saturday, Ashwin Vadi 5, 1889 B.S. (September 1832 A.D.) directing the officials concerned to settle the dispute after examining the documents as no water was released to the fields.

28. The executive order of Kazi Rai Dal Pandey dated Thursday, Marg Shira Vadi 14, 1895 B.S. (November 1838 A.D.) directing the officials concerned to settle locally the dispute by summoning the village elders in respect of the complaint of the uncle claiming the hidden treasure buried by the son of his brother. If the dispute could not be settled there, both the parties to the dispute be sent to the presence of the person issuing the order.

29. The executive order of Sardar Gunja Man Simha Basnyat dated Friday, Bhadra Sudi 10, 1905 B.S. (September 1848 A.D.) confirming the office of the group leader of the army (Hudda).

30. The executive order of Juddha Bir Adhikari dated Sunday, Magh Vadi 11, 1909 B.S. (January 1853 A.D.) transferring three households of blacksmiths requiring them to make charcoal at the gun powder magazine under obligation to their office as attendants to the temple.

31. The executive order of Subba Thamraj Khatri dated Thursday, Marg Shira Sudi 13, 1875 B.S. (December 1818 A.D.) directing the officials concerned not to harass the attendant of Ratnanath for his obligation to make charcoal.

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32. The executive order dated Monday, Phalgun Sudi 7, 1879 B.S. (March 1823 A.D.) directing the persons concerned to make the pitchers on time necessary for the rituals of the temple but they are not obligated to haulage.

33. The executive order of Dhananjay Padhya, Police Officer, directing the potter to hand over 10 clay pitchers on the first day of Durga Puja, not 10 as may be demanded. It is dated Tuesday, Ashwin Vadi 9, 1869 B.S. (September 1812 A.D.).

34. The executive order dated Tuesday, Magh Vadi 30, 1932 B.S. (January 1876 A.D.) directing the officials concerned not to collect taxes when people go to and come back from the temple of Devi Patan (India) and provide trust land for business free of rent to the stall holders of India coming there during the fair of Ratnanath.

35. The executive order dated Sunday, Phalgun Sudi 12, 1919 B.S. (March 1863 A.D.) directing the officials concerned to turn over the income collected from the trust land of the temple to the priest of the temple.

36. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated Monday, Jesth Vadi 14, 1909 B.S. (June 1852 A.D.) directing the officials not to exact forced labour from the attendant of the temple or harass him in any way.

37. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief directing the officials concerned to go on spending money on the operations of the rituals of Ratnanath, together with incense and wick-bed lights in the traditional manner and, if a foreign monk dies leaving his assets, his properties be used as the inheritance of the temple and used for operating its rituals. It is dated Wednesday, Ashwin Vadi 1, 1911 B.S. (September 1854 A.D.).

The records of the materials at the temple of Ratnanath

1. A mace of silver weighting 50 tolas dedicated to Shri Ratnanath by Jiramata in the year 1898 B.S. (1841 A.D.).

2. The mace was offered by the disciple of Shri Nath Yogi and Nath Jage as a dedication to the deity in 1974 B.S. (1917 A.D.).

3. The inscription of the mace (the yak-tail whisk bears this record). The note was addressed to the abbot of Ratnanath with appellations Shri Shri Shri 108. It was presented by Mahant Ganganath and Mahant Teknath in 1990 B.S. (1933 A.D.).

4. The inscription on the silver plate. The silver plate was offered to the deity by adding 10 rupees to rupees 111 collected as taxes from the subjects on the occasion of the king's initiation ceremony held in 1880 B.S. (1823 A.D.). the plate costing rupees 121 was dedicated to the deity by Bhakta Bashtar Upadhyaya. The plate weighs 120 tolas of silver. It is inscribed on the silver plate that any person guilty of misappropriation or coveting the plate in any way whatsoever would be guilty of committing five heinous crimes. The location is Dang. In 1964 B.S. (1907 A.D.) the plate after much use was broken into pieces and when weighed it amounted to 92 tolas and after mixing it with other assorted pieces on Tuesday, Magh 29, 1975 B.S. (December 1918 A.D.) the plate weighed 98 tolas.

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The inscriptions of the temple of Ambikeswari located ward No. 5 town, Dang

1. The inscription on the wall left to the entrance. The temple of Ambeswari was duly inaugurated by Queen Mother Ratna Rajya Laxmi Shah on the fifth of Magh 2032 B.S. (January 1976 A.D.).

2. The inscription on the old bell at the temple of Ambikeswari. The bell was dedicated by Ran Bhim Shah in 1728 Shake and 1863 Bikram Sambat.
3. The inscription on the bell. It is dated 1795 Shake and Tuesday, Magh Sudi 10, 1930 B.S. (February 1874 A.D.). The bell weighing 4 dharnis or 5.6 kilogrammes was dedicated to Ambeswari by Dabu Rana, Jay Krishna Rana ..ra Simha Abir, Gangan Simha and Bhajrav Simha Rana. The bell-caster was Rudra Miyamy. Let it do good.

4. The inscription on the bell. One bell dated 1787 Shake Wednesday, Phalgun Sudi 14, 1922 B.S. (March 1865 A.D.) dedicated to Shri Ambeswari of Ambapur by the active trustees namely Giridhar and Liladhar through Sasidhar at the Shrine of the deity. Whosoever covets or misappropriates this bell shall be guilty of five heinous crimes. This was built with the authorization of the executive order from Piuthan.

5. The inscription of the bronze lion inside the wall of the temple. It is dated Wednesday, Baisakh Vadi 1, 1922 B.S. (April 1865 A.D.). Two bronze lions made out of the sum collected as taxes by the state imposed on the trust land of Shri Ambeswari Devi on the occasion of the initiation and marriage of the crown prince. The tax was imposed on the land for the year 1929 B.S. (1913 ?) as taxes. The bronze lions were dedicated by the commanding General Dhir Shum, son of a prince through Dittha Gabha Billabh Upadhyaya.

The district court, Dang

There is the provision of making the bunch of documents and papers in the custody of the district court of Dang available to the interest parties subject to the rules and regulations applicable thereto. The index of the documents has been prepared. The civil suits list 8205 and the criminal suits 5008 bunches of documents. The bunches of documents from 2008 B.S. (1951 A.D.) have been collected.

In respect of civil suits the majority of those deal in fiscal transactions, registration, claim for the recovery of rent, unclaimed land, deposit, pledge, goods, dispute over land, relinquishment, partition, sharing the water of the water-course and so on. In respect of the criminal cases, the bunches of documents deal in theft, murder, robbery, arson, physical assault, rape, plunder accompanied with battery, defamation, forgery and fabrication of evidence.

Of those documents all other documents except plaints, respondents; rejoinders and judgements have been destroyed.

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The office handling and spending the rent from the trust land, Dang

This office is located at Dang Ghorahi within the Tribhuvan Town Panchayat. The office was established in 2035 B.S. (1978 A.D.) with a view to the preservation and promotion of the trust assets within the district and the collection of the trust land as fixed and the operation of rituals of the historical objects in a traditional manner.

The documents in this office including orders, catalogues, bunches of documents and notes number approximately twenty. There is the provision of making these documents available for perusal to the interested parties. The documents collected are from 1989 - 2020 B.S. (1932 - 1963 A.D.) but no index of these documents has been prepared.

Some samples of the documents read like these:

1. The order allocating the fund for the operation of the rituals of Shri Ambikeswari Devi (this contains the balance sheet of the trust of His Majesty's Government dated 1992 B.S. (1935 A.d.).

2. The order dated 2007 B.S. (1950 A.D.) allocating the fund for the operation of the rituals of Shri Sidha Bhagawant Nath.

3. The order dated 1989 B.s. (1932 A.D.) providing fund for operating the trust of the guest-house, Dang.

4. The order of 1992 B.S. (1935 A.D.) providing fund for operating the rituals at the sacrificial post of Katkot.

5. The bunch of documents dated 2007 B.S. (1950 A.D.) providing funds for trusts.

6. The notes to the priests of different deities dated 2020 B.S. (1963 A.D.).

7. The allocation of fund for operating the rituals of the trust of Ratnanath situated in the principality of Dang as received from Phalawang, Sallyan. It is dated 1993 B.S. (1936 A.D.)

The revenue office, Dang Ghorahi. This office is located at ward No. 8 of the Tribhuvan Town Panchayat. This office, though set up in 2035 B.S. (1968 A.D.) had on separate entity as the revenue office of Dang Deukhuri in 1942 B.S. (1985 A.D.). Dang Deukhuri revenue office, district panchayat office, in 2023 B.S. (1966 A.D.) and from 2031 B.S. on (1973 A.D.) it was known as fund and collection office.

This office has the collection of 31 books containing the catalogues. These papers are open to perusal subject to rules and regulations to the interest parties. The index of these documents has been prepared. The collection of documents in this office is dated from 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.) to the present.

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The samples of these documents read like these:

1. The numbered book with the land ceiling (medabandi) the village Talno-based Kapradevi dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.) of the Rana premiers (Shri Tin Sarkar). 1

2. The numbered book with the land ceiling of the village of Chaula Khuri, Mausi Chapi Khola, in the sub-district of Kata, district, Dang principality, the general survey for the principality of Sallyan unit. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.) and the land affected is situated at Chapi Kholi belonging to the Rana premier's (Shri Tin Sarkar). 1

3. The numbered book with the land ceiling of the village Manikapur dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

4. The numbered book with the land ceiling of Banjh Bisauna within the village Amuwa dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

5. The numbered book with the land ceiling of the Raharpur village dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

6. The numbered book with the land ceiling of the village Raikar Uttar Kurhariya dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

7. The numbered book of the village Tulsipur dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

8. The numbered book of the village Khadgapur dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

9. The numbered book of His Majesty's Government dated 1990 B.S. (1933 A.D.) relating to Myudhar in the village Pokhara. 1

10. The numbered book with the land ceiling of the Dhakna village sub-district Purwa 7 Gaonpatti of the revenue office of Dhalawang in the principality of Dang. It belongs to Prince Shumsher Bahadur Shah. It is dated 1990 B.S. (1933 A.D.). 1

11. The numbered book of the village Dadachis, sub-district Patupatti dated 1990 B.S. (1933 A.D.). It has reference to the Rana premiers. 1

12. The numbered book of the village Myudwar Sunpur in the sub- district Kata Suke Kotapatti, general survey unit, the principality of Sallyan of the Rana premier dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

13. The book with the land ceiling registered against the names of the tenants currently brought under cultivation of the village Rani Takura in the sub-district Kota Suke Kotapatti, the revenue office of the principality of Phalawang district dated 2006 B.S. (1949 A.D.) of Prince Gehendra Bahadur Shah. The land thus brought under cultivation will be subject to land tax from 2000 B.S. or 1943 A.D.). 1

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14. This book with the land ceiling registered against the name of the tenants dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.) of the village Kasinara, sub-district unit of the principality of Sallyan of the Rana premier. 1

15. The book containing the names of the tenants of the village Jhinuwa in the sub-district of greater Chhille towards the Rawat village of the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

16. The book containing the names of the tenants of the Sitalapur village of the sub-district of the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

17. The book containing the names of the tenants of the village Khamari in the sub-district Kata towards the Patu stream of the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

18. The book containing the names of the tenants of the Chyuri Kadha in the sub-district of Kata towards the Patu stream of the Rana premier. It is 1989 B.A. (1932 A.D.). 1

19. The book containing the names of the tenants of the sub- district and village of Bhimapur of the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

20. The book containing the names of the tenants of the village Urahari Na. Go. Munshiff Dugla towards the 7 villages in the east within the principality of Sallyan belonging to the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

21. The book with the land ceiling of the tenants of the Tunapani armoury towards the Patu stream in the sub-district Kata, N. Go. Munshiff within the Principality of Sallyan belonging to the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

22. The book with the names of the tenants of the village named Bagmareko in the sub-district of Chhilli, Ra. Ta. Go. Munshiff within the district of Sallyan belonged to the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

23. The book containing the names of the tenants of the Jaljala village in the sub-district of Naya Basti (new settlement), district, Dang of the Rana premier. It is dated 1990 B.S. (1933-1934 A.D.). 1

24. The book containing the names of the tenants of the Malaiko village in the sub-district Naya Basti, district, Dang of the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

25. The book with the names of the tenants of the Kurariya Phatke village in the sub-district of Chhilli at Na. Go. Munshiff within the principality of Sallyan of the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

26. The book with the names of the tenants of the village of Rawatgaon towards the Rawat village in greater Chilli at the Na. Go Munshiff within the principality of Sallyan belonging to the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

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27. The book with the names of the tenants of the Amkholi village in the sub-district of the west and south within the district of the Dang at the Na. Go. Munshiff within the principality of Sallyan belonging to the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

28. The book with the land ceiling containing the names of the tenants of the Babarpur village at the Na. Go. Munshiff within the principality of Sallyan belonging to the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

29. The book with the names of the tenants of the village Sauna Panikot towards Sukekot in the sub-district of Kata at the Na. Go. Munshiff within the principality of Sallyan of the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.A. (1932 A.D.). 1

30. The book with the names of the tenants of the village Patanwo in the sub-district of east 7 Gaonpatti; district Dang at the Na. Go. Munshiff within the principality of Sallyan belonging the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

31. The book with the names of the tenants of the village Khusamatpur in the sub-district of Kata Babai Parpatti, district, Dang, within the principality of Sallyan belonging to the Rana premier. It is dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.). 1

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The District of Piuthan

The district of Piuthan within the Central Western Region Development Sector is situated in the Rapti Zone. Khalanga Bazar is the headquarters of the district. The district is bounded in the east by Arghakhanchi, Rolpa in the north, Sallyan in the west and the district of Dang in the south.

As the district is hilly, it is seemingly backward from the view point of transport. No highway passes through this district and there are no motorable roads. The means of transport is limited to horses, mules and foot trails. The distance from Dang Ghorahi to Khalanga Bazar is 36 miles, from Palpa 52 miles and from Krishnanagar 60 miles. These three routes are mostly frequented. This district has 50 villages.

In the medieval period, Piuthan was ruled by the Simha dynasty. It was succeeded by the Chandra dynasty. Piuthan is one of the twenty-four principalities. After this principality was integrated into the kingdom of Nepal in 1843 B.S. (1786 A.D.), this principality was divided into 6 administrative units for facilitating administration. Then the Khengis of Piuthan and the rulers of Udayapur acknowledged to be princelings under the suzerainty of the kingdom of Nepal. The abolition of princelings under 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.) Act, the descendants of the princelings were entitled to use the suffix Raja.

During the Rana administration this district was administered from the district headquarters of Palpa. In 2009 B.S. (1952 A.D.) a separate district headquarters was set up for Piuthan. The district administration was operated by Bada Hakim (Chief Officer) in the beginning, then by the Assistant Commissioner, then Special Officer and Chief District Officer currently. The historical materials recovered from the district read like these:

The revenue office, Piuthan

The revenue office located at Khalanga Bazar, Piuthan has the collection of historical documents numbering 24 from 1861 to 1954 B.S. (1804 to 1897 A.D.). Some of those read in this way:

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Friday, Bhadra Vadi 3, 1861 (August 1704 A.D.) provides for setting up at Sikuwa Danda a rest-house and appointing a care-taker and feeding the Brahmins on the occasion. It was issued through Ranjit Kunwar for the trust, one document.

2. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Jesth Sudi 7, 1877 B.S. (June 1830 A.D.) confirming the retention of the garden and the house and the land attached thereto given to Biri Giri Gasain by the prince of Piuthan when he was in office, one document.

3. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Jesth Vadi 7, 1887 B.S. (June 1830 A.D.) re-confirming the grant of land to Pirthai Padhya Risal given to him by the prince of Piuthan when he was in office. The document was endorsed by

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Mahavir Adhikari, Bhimsen Thapa, Pran Shah, Ranadyot Shah and other, one document.

4. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Saturday, Shrawan Sudi 8, 1882 B.S. (August 1825 A.D.) providing a trust for operating the routine rituals of Bhimsen in favour of Jai Krishna Newar, one document.

5. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Tuesday, Chaitra Sudi 13, 1889 B.S. (April 1832 A.D.) confirming the retention of land of different categories given to Kashi Ram Gotame and his brother by the prince of Piuthan when he was in office, one document.

6. One piece of document emanating from Nar Simha Thapa directing Shiva Nath to go on operating the rituals of Shri Duvanath in the manner provided by the nobles and the tax- collection. It is dated Monday, Phalgun Sudi 10, 1894 B.S. (March 1834 A.D.).

7. One piece of the executive order of King Rajendra dated Friday, Jesth Sudi 10, 1895 B.S. (June 1838 A.D.) providing the trust of Shri Bhumya Devata to be operated by Gan Acharya routinely. The document was endorsed by Pandit Rang Nath, Phatteh Jung Shah, Dal Bhanjan Pandey, Ranjor Thapa and Rangambhir Pandey. He was thereby authorized to use the residue after operating the trust.

8. One piece of the executive order of King Rajendra empowering Shiva Nath to operate the routine rituals of Shri Duva Nath and enjoy the residue after operating the trust. The document was endorsed by Phatteh Jung, Rang Nath and others.

9. One piece of the executive order of King Rajendra dated Wednesday, Ashadh Sudi 5, 1902 B.S. (July 1845 A.D.) empowering Jageswar Padhya Pokharyal to re-exercise authority over the rest-house when the matter was revealed that Daljit Bista on misrepresentation got the Lal Mohar made in his favour in respect of the operation of the trust of the rest-house built by Rabi Narayan Padhya. The executive order was endorsed by Jung Bahadur, Kalu Shahi and others.

Chandra Raj Sharma

Chandra Raj Sharma, resident of the district of Bardia, has in his possession 8 pieces of documents dating from 1763 to 1906 B.S. (1706 to 1849 A.D.) relating to the Piuthan area. They have already been published in ancient Nepal numbers 77 & 79. Some of these read in this way.

1. The document of Dittha Bishram Khatri appointing Raj Brahman Rudramani Karki to take possession of the land of Udayapur subject to the payment, of traditional taxes and dues. It is dated Wednesday, Baisakh Sudi 13, 1863 B.S. (May 1806 A.D.), one document.

2. The instruction of Kazi Ranjit Kunwar dated Bhadra Vadi 14, 1871 B.S. (August 1814 A.D.) directing Atma Ram Padhya and Tilak Ram Padhya to build the suspension bridge in a solid manner, one document.

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3. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Wednesday, Chaitra Vadi 6, 1875 B.S. (March 1818 A.D.) confirming the claim of rent- free holding in favour of Rudramani Karki, one document.

4. The instruction of Kazi Bakhatwar Simha Thapa dated Ashwin Sudi 2, 1891 B.S. (October 1834 A.D.) directing Rudramani Karki to deliver the feudal tax (Bolak) payable annually to the tax-collector of Dang to the daughter of the Captain as the sum when brought to Kathmandu would cost much, one document.

5. One receipt dated Shrawan Sudi 3, 1898 B.S. (August 1842 A.D.) acknowledging half charges for replacing the weights and measures of 500 villages of Udayapur by the authorized agent of the government - Dittha Dhirja Pradhan.

Rajendra Simha G.C., Okharkot

Rajendra Simha G.C. resident of the village panchayat, Okharkot, Piuthan, has a document dated 1932 B.S. (1875 A.D.) in his possession, which reads like this.

1. The executive order of Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief Ranoddip Simha Kunwar Rana dated Tuesday, Marg Sudi 11, 1932 B.S. (November 1875 A.D.) empowering Tika Bahadur Gharti Chhetri and Himmat Simha Gharti Chhetri to enjoy the office of the rent-collector by functioning with in the frame work of usage as stipulated in the Lal Mohar, one piece.

Manik Lal Shrestha, Khalanga Bazar

Manik Lal Shrestha, resident of Khalanga Bazar has two pieces of documents dated 1928 B.S. (1871 A.D.), which read as follows:

1. The document of the office of general survey dated Saturday, Jesth Sudi 15, 1928 B.S. (May 1871 A.D.) empowering Shiva Raj Sahu to operate the routine rituals of Shri Rameswar located at Sikua Hill and enjoy the land provided therefor as trust.

2. The document of the office of general survey dated Sunday... Vadi 7, 1928 B.S. (1871 A.D.) authorizing Dhana Raj Thapa to operate annually the routine rituals of Shri Khadga Devata and enjoy the land provided therefor as trust.

Bhimnath Yogi, Kawadi village

Bhimnath Yogi, resident of Kawadi village has one royal executive order dated 1985 B.S. (1828 A.D.) which reads as follows:

1. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Thursday, Chaitra Vadi 6, 1885 B.S. (March 1828 A.D.) empowering Dayalnath to manage the routine rituals of Shri Gorakhnath and operate it as trust.

Tul Bahadur Viswakarma, Agrineta

Tul Bahadur Viswakarma, resident of Agrineta village has in his possession one

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document dated 1895 B.S. (1838 A.D.), which reads as follows:

1. The royal executive order of King Rajendra dated Jesth Sudi 9, 1895 B.S. (June 1838 A.D.) granting a contract of iron in favour of Indraya Kami, Durga Kami and Harkya Kami. The order was endorsed by Phatteh Jung Shah, Ranganth Pandit and Ranjor Thapa.

Tulasi Ram Upadhyaya, Bakha village

Tulasi Ram Upadhyaya, resident of Bakha village has in his possession two documents dated 1906 and 1908 B.S. which read as follows:

1. A document establishing a trust for operating the spring and autumn rituals of Shri Khadga Devata of Dakhakot by Bir Bahadur Khatri in favour of Jageswar Padhya Pokharyal. It is dated Wednesday, Shrawan Vadi 6, 1906 B.S. (July 1849 A.D.).

2. The executive order of premier Jung Bahadur counter-signed by General Bom Bahadur Rana providing a trust for operating the spring and the autumn rituals of Shri Khadga Devata in favour of Jageswar Pokharel. It is dated Saturday, Jesth Sudi 1, 1908 B.S. (June 1851 A.D.).

Chhabi Lal Pokhrel, Punya Khola

Chhabi Lal Pokharel, resident of Punja Khola has two documents dated 1871 and 1896 B.S., which read as follows:

1. The royal executive order of King Girvan dated Sunday, Baisakh Sudi 5, 1871 B.S. (May 1814 A.D.) appointing Shakti Narayan Upadhyaya the priest of the armoury of the Piuthan palace and providing a trust for operating the rituals of Shri Kshetrapal. The document is endorsed by Dalbhanjan Pandey.

2. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Friday, Baisakh Vadi 6, 1896 B.S. (April 1829 A.D.) appointing Gauri Shankar Padhya the priest of the armoury of the Piuthan palace and providing a trust for operating the routine rituals of Shri Kshetrapal. The document is endorsed by Ram Jung Pandey, Taranath Aryal and Rangabhir Pandey.

Ramji Lal Shrestha, Khalanga Bazar

Ramji Lal Shrestha, resident of Khalanga Bazar, has two documents dated 1890 and 1902 B.S., which read as follows:

1. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Saturday, Phalgun Vadi 6, 1890 B.S. (February 1834 A.D.) providing Newar merchant's Shiva Narayan, Rajendra and Sumant Singh for building well-built houses and roofs with baked-clay sheets and making the market thickly populated. The document is endorsed by Bhim Sen Thapa and Umakant Upadhyaya.

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2. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Thursday, Phalgun Sudi 4, 1902 B.S. (March 1846 A.D.) obligating Mir Subba Hira Lal Jha to pay out of his own pocket for the outstanding dues as specified at Kumarichok (auditor's office).

Tankeswar Upadhyaya, Dakha Kuwadi

Tankeswar Upadhyaya, resident of ward No. 2 Dakha Kuwadi village has in his possession 8 pieces of documents dating 1876 through 1926 B.S. (1819 to 1869 A.D.). Some of them read like this:

1. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Saturday, Magh Vadi 8, 1876 B.S. (January 1820 A.D.) empowering Rabi Narayan Padhya to bring the barren land under cultivation, make the place pleasant, supply drinking water to the passers by passing through and enjoy the land as the trust.

2. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Wednesday, Magh Sudi 4, 1896 B.S. (January 1840 A.D.) directing the officials of Thiti Khola not to make the runner carry any other items except the Lal Mohars and letters and if the office commits delay in any way in the discharge of its duty, the office affected shall be awarded maximum punishment. The document is endorsed by Ranjor Thapa.

3. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Wednesday, Ashadh Sudi 5, 1902 B.S. (July 1845 A.D.) re-confirming the grant of land made to Jageswar Padhya in 1876 B.S. (1819 A.D.) and authorizing him to take care of the rest-house. It is endorsed by Jung Bahadur, Kalu Shahi and Umakant Upadhyaya and Bal Bahadur Pandey.

4. The executive order of King Surendra dated Wednesday Magh Sudi 5, 1904 B.S. (January 1848 A.D.) offering the office of the tax-collector to Jageswar Padhya. It is endorsed by Jung Bahadur Kunwar, Gunjaman Simha Basnyat and Jay Bahadur Kunwar.

5. The executive order of premier Jung Bahadur counter-signed by General Bom Bahadur dated Saturday, Jesth Sudi, 1908 B.S. (June 1851 A.D.) empowering Jageswar Padhya to operate the spring and the autumn rituals of Shri Khadga Devata of Takhakot re-confirming the trust provided therefor in the manner traditionally conducted.

6. This is the executive order of Ranoddip Simha, Commanding General of the western wing, directing Captain Dhokal Simha Basnyat to administer justice in the manner provided in law in respect of a dispute between Gunapati Upadhya and Garbhe Kunwar. It is dated Wednesday, Phalgun Vadi 4, 1915 B.A. (February 1859 A.D.)

Sobhanath Yogi, Dakha Kuwadi

Sobhanath Yori, resident of Dakha Kuwadi, Piuthan, has a collection of 4 documents dating from 1867 to 1896 B.S. (1810 to 1839 A.D.), which read as follows:

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Monday, Kartik Vadi 10, 1867 B.S. (November 1810 A.D.) endorsed by Pran Shah, Bhim Sen Thapa, Bal Narsimha

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Kunwar and Randhoj Thapa empowering Sevanath, Laksminath to operate the trust of Shri Jalpa Devi of Piuthan with the rent from the land provided for the purpose.

2. The executive order of King Girvan dated Sunday, Baisakh Sudi 5, 1881 B.S. (May 1814 A.D.) appointing Shakti Narayan Upadhya to the office of the priest at the armoury of the Piuthan palace as well as the priest of Kshetrapala.

3. The executive order of King Rajendra endorsed by Udaya Giri and Bhim Sen Thapa dated Saturday, Phalgun Vadi 7, 1880 B.S. (February 1823 A.D.) empowering Badrinath to operate the trust of Shri Jalpa Devi of Piuthan, conduct enjoy the residue of the rent from the trust land.

4. The executive order of King Rajendra endorsed by Ran Jung Pandey, Taranath Aryal and Ran Gambhir Pandey dated Friday, Baisakh Vadi, 1896 B.S. (April 1829 A.D.) appointing Gauri Shankar Upadhya to the office of the priest at the armoury of the Piuthan palace and confirming the office of the priest of Kshetrapal.

Khetanath Yogi, Rabaita

Khetanath Yogi, resident of Rabaita has in his possession two documents dated 1904 B.S. (1847 A.D.), which read like these:

1. The executive order of King Surendra endorsed by Jay Bahadur Kunwar and Gunj Man Simha Basnyat dated Wednesday, Magh Sudi 5, 1904 B.S. (January 1848 A.D.) appointing Lakshminath, the priest, to operate the routine rituals of the feet of Gorakhnath and enjoy the residue out of the rent from the land as trust.

2. The document dated Wednesday, ... Vadi 14, 1904 B.S. (1847 A.D.) after obtaining confessional statement from the iron- mongers that they had taken food cooked by the tailor initiating proceedings before the village court.

Meghnath Yogi, Dakha Kuwadi

Meghnath Yogi, resident of Dakha Kuwadi has in his possession 6 documents dating from 1867 to 1951 B.S. of them some read like these:

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Monday, Kartik Vadi 10, 1867 B.S. (October 1810 A.D.) endorsed by Ranjit Pandey, Bal Narsimha Kunwar, Pran Shah, Bhim Sen Thapa and Randhoj Thapa appointing Badrinath and Pandit Jay Nath to manage the trust of Shri Kalika of Piuthan and operate its routine rituals.

2. The executive order of King Girvan dated Monday, Kartik Vadi 10, 1867 B.S. (October 1810 A.D) endorsed by Pran Shah, Bhim Sen Thapa, Bal Narsimha Kunwar and Randhoj Thapa appointing Lekhnath and Lakshminath to operate the routine rituals of Shri Jalpa Devi of Piuthan and enjoy the residue of the trust land.

3. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Saturday, Phalgun Vadi, 1880 B.S. (February 1824 A.D.) endorsed by Udaya Giri and Bhim Sen Thapa appointing

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Badrinath to manage the trust land provided for operating the routine rituals of Shri Jalpa Devi of Piuthan.

4. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Magh Vadi 9, 1903 B.S. (January 1847 A.D.) endorsed by Gunj Man Simha Basnyat, Jung Bahadur Kunwar and Hira Lal Jaisi confirming the management power of the caravanserai and the rest-house given under the signatures of the courtiers (of the king).

Punram and Hari Lal Dhami, Dakha Kuwadi

Punram and Hira Lal Dhami, resident of Dakha Kuwari have in their possession two documents dated 1863 B.S. (1806 A.D.) and 1927 B.S. (1870 A.D.), which read as follows:

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Thursday, Kartik Vadi 3, 1863 B.S. (October 1806 A.D.) endorsed by Dalbhanjan Pandey directing the tax-collector and military officers of Piuthan to let the wandering monk set up the abbey in the manner traditionally operated.

2. The instruction of the office of general survey dated Saturday, Chaitra Sudi 12, 1927 B.S. (April 1871 A.D.) directing Subedar Tulsi Bista, the local tax-collector of Dakha and Ganapati Padhya, the village head man, to supply water to the caravanserai and renovate it as and when necessary and the residue of the rent of the trust land to be given to the care-taker for his use.

Kula Chandra Subedi, Tarisap

Kula Chandra Subedi, resident of ward No. 3, Tarisap Dadagaon panchayat, has in his possession the chronicle of the Chand kings of Piuthan, which reads as follows:

1. The chronicle with 14 generations of Chan kings from Lata Raj to Rudra Pratap. It contains a note that the Gorkha occupation began on Wednesday the month of Kartik 1843 B.S. (October-November 1786 A.D.) 1708 Shake.

2. It contains the list of the names of 129 Subbas (administrators) appointed for the district of Piuthan from Phaud Simha Rana too Yagya Bahadur Khand. There were 45 administrators within the period of 129 years.

Madhaviswar Pokhrel, Darim Chaur

Madhaviswar Pokhrel, resident of Darim Chaur has in his possession the collection of 5 documents dating frrom 1766 to 1885 B.S. (1709 to 1828 A.D.). They read as follows:

1. One copy of Shadang Rudri Vidhan scribed by Narayan Sharma completed on Wednesday, Ashwin Sukla Trayodashi, 1631 Shake (October 1709 A.D.).

2. One copy of Maha Karma scribed by Mokshesware dated 1647 Shake (1725 A.D.).

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3. One copy of Vetal Pascisi (25 tales of the phantom) scribed by Shiva Das dated 1805 B.S. (1762 A.D.).

4. One copy of Shrawanot Sarga Vidhi Rakshaban scribed in 1627 Shake 1812 B.S. (1755 A.D.).

5. One copy of Kupotsarga scribed by Viswanath Pandit in 1885 B.S. (1828 A.D.).

Rudra Prrasad Upadhyaya, Khalanga Bazar

Rudra Prasad Upadhyaya, resident of Khalanga Bazar, has collected two books on religion, which read as follows:

1. One copy of Yoga Shastra in the absolute philosophy of the Upanishad scribed on Saturday, Phalgun Sudi 2, 1905 B.S. (March 1849 A.D.).

2. One copy of Gita Saramukti scribed by Dinanath Padhya in Magh Vadi 5, 1907 B.S. (1851 A.D.).

Damodar Pokhrel, Darim Chaur

Damodar Pokhrel, resident of Darim Chaur, has the collection of manuscripts, which read as follows:

1. One copy of Grah Vicara (reflections on planets) scribed in 1658 A.D. (1736 A.D.).

2. One copy of Brihat Jatak (work on astronomy) scribed by Veniram Sharma dated 1712 Shake 1847 B.S. (1790 A.D.).

3. One copy of Mahabhairav Stuti (a work on astronomy) scribed in 1882 B.S. (1825 A.D.).

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The District of Mustang

The district of Mustang located within the Western Region Development Sector lies on the northern Himalaya of the Karnali Zone. The northern border of Mustang touches at the autonomous region of Tibet of China. The geographic structure of this region is quite different from other regions of Nepal because most of the regions of Mustang lie on the bewared side of the Himalaya.

The northern regions of this district are inhabitated by the scheduled tribes of Tibetan origin while the other scheduled tribes known as Thakalis of Mongol origin inhabit the southern flank of the district prior to the division of the district on the basis of panchayats, this district from the south to the north was divided into Thag 700, 5 villages, 12 villages and Loboko Chho Ghun (seven localities) by degrees as the sub-divisions.

All the territories from that Thag 700 to that Lobo Chho Ghun and to Mustang proper was ruled by the Lobos or the rulers of the region - Lobo Chho Gyals from the middle of the 15th century A.D. The boundary of that principality touched at the principality of parvat. That principality was divided into lower and higher administrative units. Monthang lying on the higher altitude was its capital (Gyalsa). The ministers and the courtiers as the local agents of Lobo Mya of Monthang as well as their descendant used to live in palaces and castles at the settlement named Jar-Jong near Muktinath. They were called in local parlance Thi- Thog-Pa and were appointed by Lobo Chho Gyal but the office was passed hereditarily.

Prior to the existence of Lobo as an independent kingdom, pieces of evidence have been discovered that it was ruled by the Central Government of Tibet, the administrator of the Nari province of western Tibet, the administrator of ya-che empire of the west. In other words the Malla kings with the appellation of over lord of the Khasa kingdom ruled over this region. Even after the founding of the Lo kingdom, this region was ruled by the Kalyan kings of Jumla and at some period even the kings of Parvat exercised sovereignty over this region. Prior to the merger of the region with greater Nepal during the Nepal unification campaign launched by Gorkha, the Thag 700 and 5 villages of the southern parts of this region had been integrated by Parvat and the entire central region with 12 village by Jumla. After defeating Parvat and Jumla principalities by Nepal by 1846 B.S. (1789 A.D.) under the campaign of the Gorkha military operations, the said kingdom of Lo in pursuance of the treaty made earlier retained its identity by acknowledging to be a vassal under the seizerainty of Nepal on annual payment 929 rupees and five horses as tributes. The territories occupied by Jumla and Parvat were restored to the principality of Lo. It appears that the principality of Lo was changed into Mustang after that. In fact, the term Mustang is the corrupted form of "Monthang", the capital of the principality of Lo. Of the four vassal kings recognised by the constitution of the kingdom of Nepal, Mustang is one.

This region is inhabited by the scheduled tribes of Tibetan origin and the king of Mustang himself is of Tibetan origin so that the impact of Tibet marks its language, culture, religion, mode of living and eating. The local chronide and other historical

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materials identify Lo or the kings of Mustang as belonging to dynasty of Nam-Lha (of the ethereal god) of Tibet. These belonged to the noble class related to the ruler of Gung-Thang of Tibet and the local representative (De-pa) of Gung-Thang had been appointed on behalf of it for the Lobo region. The historical source is a witness to the existence of 25 kings to date. The Mustang region with its long history from the view point of the source of history can be considered immensely rich.

Miscellaneous historical materials available in the district

Historical sources - both archaeological and literary - are abundantly available in the Mustang region. Though historical stone inscriptions are considerably minimal, there is the abundance of materials both in Nepali and Tibetan in this region. This Mustang region lying on the Tibetan border was linked with Tibet in socio-religious and in the beginning political relationship with Tibet so that the documents sent by the Tibetan administrators, the Lama authorities, the business community and others are abundantly available here. In the same way there are plenty of documents relating to Bhutan, Sikkim and Laddakh with which it has cultural relationship. Of these documents some dating 400 years and later have been recovered.

Materials written in Tibetan script like Kar-chhyag, Wem-chhyag, To-Hig, Tho-Hig, Molla and others are available in abundant number. Such historical documents may be compared with Dhalah Pau (record book) Thya-Saphu (accordian - like book), chronicle, laudation and commendation and the like. Of the other documents of importance available in this region are those dealing in local usage, religious deeds, commerce and agreements. As Tibet lies on the commercial route, sometimes the representatives of Tibet, Jumla, Parvat, Mustang and other principalities would meet together and arrive at a decision to write the religious deed. The discovery of such documents has evidenced the tradition of the existence of writing such documents through the joint meeting.

Of the historical documents are the Lal Mohars and other letters sent later on from the central government and other officers and those of Jumla and Parvat. In the Mustang region, the executive orders of the rulers of Jumla, their copper plates, the executive orders and the copper plates of the rulers of Parvat and the Lal Mohars and copper plates of the kings of Nepal as well as the authorization, rules and regulations of the Rana premiers and other miscellaneous letters have been recovered abundantly and may also be recovered in years to come.

Another aspect of the historical source is other literary sources. It would be no exaggeration if we assert that Mustang occupies the first place in the Himalayan region of Nepal as the treasure-house of the Buddhist religious manuscripts. As such manuscripts are in the possessions of the individuals, religious institutions gompas and palaces, it may be easily assumed that there is every possibility of the existence of such documents in thousands throughout the district of Mustang. Besides such important religious books like Kya-gyur, Tan-gyur, Ge-Tung-Pa, Hyum, Do-Mang and Nam-thars with the lives of the Lamas are also available in the territory of Mustang. It is natural that the biographical works play a significant role in the construction of history, but the religious works like Ka-gyur and Ten-gyur (Buddhist scriptures) carry colophons relating to the introduction of books, which can be deemed equally important for historry as well. The particulars, for example, tell us who caused these works to be written and

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at what cost and where and on what occasion as well as the number of artists employed for the purpose, together with their habitation. Such pieces of information will facilitate to find out historical truth. For example, the first page of Ge-Tong-Pa deposited at the Mustang palace records that the book was scribed by Rup Taj Pal, the artist from Nepal. In the same way gold, silver and other valuable metals as well as the artistic picturers and slides on the wooden frames of the book also help study history.

In addition to the written sources as stated above, archaeological remains dating approximately one thousand years old are available in the territory, specifically the settlement at the district headquarters, gompas and the remains of the palaces appear to be the historical sources of this territory. the caves of this territory have from the archaeological view point specific importance. The caves cannot simply be called pre-historic because many caves contain religious works dating 400 to 500 years old, wall paintings and religious objects.

The places where historical documents and sources are available

Of the persons, institutions and places where historical materials of Mustang are available, the most important must be deemed the palace of Mustang where materials - it is believed - have been collected since the establishment of the Lo principality. But the materials now recovered are mostly related to the southern region. No other documents except a few letters from Dalai Lama and other Lamas and agreements have hitherto been recovered, but it is believed that the treasure house of abundant Tibetan source is preserved in the palace of Mustang provided that the king of Mustang is liberal enough to open his collection. Next to it, old Gompas have the possession of old letters, specially religious literary source is mostly found in the Gompas. But the letters relating to Tibet and the religious usage and facilities as provided by the Lo kings through their documents are also available in the Gompas. The letters passing through the south specially from Nepal are minimal in the collection. But in the Gompas of the environs of the Thag Khola, the executive orders under signatures of Malla kings of Parvat and copper plates and Lal Mohars, together with authorization, rules and regulations issued by the Shah kings are also available.

The important old documents of the Mustang environs are in the custody of the traditional village council of each village and the village senior most in age (Gompa). Each village has boxes meant for preserving important documents.

There is the tradition of maintaining such documents under the seal of the authorized persons. When any document is to be retrieved, the presence of the entire members of the village assembly is required at some place while at others the meeting of the village is mandatory. Such documents are found in the custody of the village Pondhung that is in the house of those aristocrats having relationship with great kings, Amji, Vaidhya and Dipo families of the artists.

The old documents of the Mustang environs are found minimal in local public offices, because the current division of districts came into effect very late and all the offices are entirely new.

Originally it was under the suzerainty of Parvat and Baglung was its headquarters, the researchers went there under the assumtion that historical documents would be

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available there but when the team reached there, they were told that the documents had already been sent to the departments concerned at the centre.

Old historical sources are also found in the collection of the Sherchand families who were the hereditary custom officials of the custom house located at Tukuche, Thag Khola of Mustang. The custom officials of Tukuche who were delegated high authority by the Rana administration has so much documents relating to imposition custom duties that they read like archives and other documents were also equally available in their collection.

The importance of the historical materials of the Mustang environs

The historical materials of the Mustang environs have proved to become very useful not only for the history and culture of Nepal but also Bhutan, Laddakh, Sikkim, Tibet, China, Mongolia and India in respect of history, religion, culture, and other areas. The historical materials of the territory have presented us with the historical relationship of Mustang with those states and regions. Many religious works which can be useful for the religious history were written in the Lo kingdom (Mustang) even when such works were not written even in Tibet and many other works brought from the outside world were also collected. The biographics of eminent Lamas and others made with wooden blocks. Such rare copies are also available in the Lo Mustang environs. Many precious documents written in pure gold are also available in the environs of Mustang. The economic aspects of the materials throw light on the history of Tibet and tradition of Tibet, together with those Lo.

The technique of recovering materials

To procure the documents of the individuals and the palace, the king of Mustang concerned in this business must be contacted and his confidence won. But it has already been stated that the documents of the environs of Mustang are kept in the custody of the representatives of the traditional village council of the village affected. The chief of the village council (gen-pa) should be approached and in accordance with traditional practice and the chief tax-collector of the village (gen-pa) through the town-crur summons the villagers with a loud voice to assembly at a given place and accordingly they do at the time fixed for the purpose. After the villagers have assembled and if their confidence can be won, the box with the historical documents and the traditional practices of the village is opened and the documents may be perused. The items fit to be copied should be copied and photographed in the presence of the representatives appointed by the village assembly and should be returned in the presence of Gen-pa (village chief) and officials. The said documents would not be the sole possession of one individual to the exclusion of others. the sealed box is kept in the custody of one person, the key with the other person and the ring with the seal or impression with the other. That is why the documents in the territory of Mustang are highly secure and their acquisition is extremely difficult. the non-availability of the persons affected may cause the time lag of many days. At some places this tradition is rigidly practised while at others the process is simple. At some places for example at Thak Khola all the documents in the collection of 13 village chiefs are kept at a place and there is the tradition of attendance of those living at a distance of more than one day's imagined the difficulties of the making the attendance of 13 representatives.

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In respect of the documents in the possession of the Gompas, there is the tradition of opening the box in the presence of the chief abbot and the upper strata Lamas. Against such background, it is difficult to acquire those documents. But at some places, the situation has so worsened that the documents are in the possession of the chief Lama or of a special person authorized therefor. In respect of such documents of the area, there is no alternative to copying or photographing except in the presence of the local representatives concerned. Some documents in the possession of the clan of the administrative officers (Subba) in charge of the custom house may be taken to the house of the researcher for copying after making a count of those items. Even in the Lo palace, only the documents selected by the king may be copied in the presence of his private secretary.

The language employed in the historical materials

No documents in Nepali language with some isolated exceptions except in the traditional seven sectors of the palace of Mustang of Lobo in the whole Mustang territory are available. This palace has the abundant supply of Tibetan and Nepali materials. In the villages under the jurisdiction of seven sub-divisions and Gompas, there are materials in Tibetan script. At Gelung and further south at Jomsom and Thini and in the territory of 12 villages of the north there are Nepali and mostly Tibetan language sources. In the environs of 5 villages and the Thag Khola, the documents in Nepali language out number those in Tibetan. Even the materials in Nepali used by the people of Parvat and Jumla in their letters being quite different from the conventional Nepali, it can be deciphered only by the professionals and the researchers. For others they would pose serious difficulties. At some place the documents are in Nepali with tibetan script.

Even in Tibetan language, the letters sent from Tibet, those of the people of Jumla, local agreemental notes and other local correspondence as well as seals differ greatly in language. Even the letters from Tibet contain language used by Lhasans, the dialect spoken in the central region of Buchang and that spoken in the gngari province of the north. Standard Tibetan has been used in letters sent from Gompas and the potala. In other letters examples of linguistic errors have been detected to a great extent. In respect of local letters and those of the environs of Jumla, the language is not only the local dialect of perverted Tibetan but the words also are the hilly dialect of Jumla. At some places the letters with the conjunctions and disjunctions are Nepalese and words Tibetan have been retrieved. So it poses a serious problem in understanding and translating those letters. To translate the materials of the environs of Mustang written in Tibetan and those of the environs of Jumla requires the services of those knowing Tibetan and residing in Mustang and knowing the old language of Jumla respectively. It is not possible to translate the historical documents available in Mustang only by the expert in classical Tibetan.

Conclusion

In this way the environs of Mustang appear to be important from the historical sources view point in two ways, that is why T.U. and the centre for Nepal and Asian Studies conducted in 2040- 2041 B.S. (1983-1984 A.D.) historical exploration of this territory.

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In course of the research of this program, the researchers going there for the purpose collected more than one thousand historical materials which were either photographed or copied. These historical materials are currently in the custody of researchers related to Mustang at the centre for Nepal and Asian Studies. Of these materials many have been included in the report on Mustang. The utilisation of these materials can be made by other scholars with the approval of the director of C.N.A.S. of the Tibetan materials many are included in this book and are translated by the local Lama.

Many other materials are likely to be recovered in the Mustang area other than those already collected by CNAS. To be specific, it is assumed that such materials are still in the custody of the Mustang palace.

The catalogue of the materials collected by the researchers operating through CNAS has already been made, but it is practically impossible to collect all the catalogues so that one file each of Nepali and Tibetan with its catalogue has been included in this booklet by which the research-oriented scholar would be benefitted.

Appendix

Historical materials list file No. 6 and 5

File No. 6: The documents in Nepali language retrieved from Baglung, Parvat, via Thag Kagbeni to Tang-we and Muktinath during the on-the-site tour from Jesth to Shrawan, 2041 B.S. (June to August 1984 A.D.).

1. The authorization given by premier Jung Bahadur in 1903 B.S. (1846 A.D.) to the tax-collector of Thak in respect of the provisions made for the harvest and domestic animals.

2. The bond caused to be done by 14 village chiefs in respect of custom and trade regulations in 1937 B.S. (1880 A.D.) by Kabiram, the administrative officer (Subba) of Thak.

3. The executive order of King Girvan dated 1859 B.S. (1802 A.d.) made for operating the trust of the deity of the Baglung meadow in favour of Krishna Khadka and others.

4. The letter of Pandit Ranganath Poudyal, chief of the scholars (Panditraj) addressed to Subedar Shiva Das Bhandari dated 1866 B.S. (1809 A.D.) in respect of the operation of the trust of the deity of Baglung.

5. The executive order of premier Ranoddip dated 1935 B.S. (1878 A.D.) addressed to Gno-Dhup-Parvar, the vassal king of Mustang to process the petition of Ram Prasad Thakali, the administrative officer of Thak, in respect of the custom duties.

6, The Lal Mohar of King Ran Bahadur dated 1852 B.S. (1795 A.D.) directing the senior most village chiefs and village elders to construct the shrine of Narikot and the tracts washed away by the Gandaki.

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7. A copper plate of Kirti Bom Malla recovered at Mulpani, Baglung.

8. A document in the custody of the revenue office of Baglung issued by the Department of Finance (expenditure) directing the said office to provide emoluments entitled to a captain to the son of the vassal king of Mustang.

9. A copper plate of Kirti Bom Malla dated 1685 Shake (1763 A.D.) granting land to be owned by Thagsi Punyal by defining the boundaries of the land thus granted.

10. The copper plates issued by King Kirti Bom Malla of Parvat and in the possession of 13 village chiefs of Thag Khola, Kowang the copies of three copper plates relating to lands, cultivated or otherwise.

11. The document under the signature of King Kirti Bom Malla of Parvat addressed to the residents of Nabungkot in respect of lands, cultivated or otherwise.

12. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated 1877 B.S. (1820 A.D.) issued in respect of the condition of the Gompa of Thag.

13. Two pieces of Lal Mohars dated 1877 B.S. (1820 A.D.) in respect of the construction of the Gompa.

14. The executive order of premier Bir Shumshere addressed to Subba Harsha Man directing him not to impose cash rent on the dry land belonging to Jyomos and Lamas.

15. The executive order of premier Chandra dated 1967 B.S. (1910 A.D.) providing regulations for the trade between Tibet and Nepal operated by the subjects under the jurisdiction of Thakdan custom house.

16. The Lal Mohar of King Ran Bahadur acknowledging the receipt of rupees 500 from Thittuwa Bista of Jharkot as the tax on the accession of the king to the throne (Gadimuwarakh).

17. The document under the signature of Subedar Hem Karna acknowledging the receipt of the tax on the accession of the king to the throne.

18. The executive order of premier Bir Shumshere dated 1943 B.S. (1886 A.D.) regulating weights and measures to be employed in the trade transactions between Manang and Tibet. It is addressed to the Thakalis - males and females - as well as 13 villages chiefs.

19. The executive order of premier Jung Bahadur dated 1918 B.S. (1861 A.D.) addressed to the village chief, village eldest persons and other subjects regulating custom duties, trade and other local established practice.

20. The executive order of King Rajendra dated 1884 B.S. (1827 A.D.) addressed to the village chiefs of 5 villages relating to contracts, together with the issues on the settlement conditions of Manang.

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21. The executive order dated 1673 Shake (1751 A.d.) under the signature of the royal collateral of Jumla addressed to the villagers of Chhingor under the jurisdiction of 12 villages in respect of the use of local forest products.

22. The executive order dated 1655 Shake (1733 A.D.) of Surath Shah, King of Jumla, addressed to the villagers of Chhingor in respect of the use of local forest products.

23. The regulation made by Shilim Namgyal Bista dated 1890 B.S. (1833 A.D.) of Thi-thog-pa of Jharkot after the dispute between Muwakot and Chhingor over the grazing limit on the slope.

24. The copy of the copper plate issued by Kirti Bom Malla dated 1688 Shake (1766 A.D.) regulating the boundaries, extent and other established practices.

This file contains 96 items written in Nepali language of similar types.

File No. 5: Some documents in Tibetan language collected and copied from Chho-ghoon area, upper Mustang in 2040 B.S. (1983 A.D.).

1. The judgement delivered by the king of Mustang on the dispute between Amichhyogi of the village of Garphoog and Pasang Lhamu.

2. The document making a gift of the property of a person named Pema-thin-le of the same Marphoog village to his daughter named Tashi.

3. A document which debared from taking his paternal property away by youth of a village named Mustang Sam-Jong who was about to go with a give, resident of a locality named Rela in Tibet.

4. The practice was the Dog-Pas of tibet carried on salt trade at a place called Jheti above the Gelung village and later on the salt trading centre was shifted down to Thak and the villagers of Gelung submitted a petition to the king of Mustang praying that the trading post be restored to Jheti.

5. The list of the materials of the stone of the palace deposited at three villages under the signature of the king of Mustang.

6. The document of King Teg-Jen Dha-dul made for the Chhyo De Gompa, Mustang in respect of the established practice of the Gompa.

7. The booklet about 200 pages containing the particulars of the tax to be collected within the territory of Mustang and delivered to the king of Jumla as well as gift to the superior officer.

8. A letter in Tibetan script originating from Phyun-Chhog- Phodhang, Sakya Gompa, Tibet, calling upon all the people to contribute for the construction and management of the Chhode Gompa of Mustang.

9. An executive order under the signature of King Bangyal Dorje making a gift of land to the Chho-de Gompa.

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10. The letter of the chief Lama (abbot) of a Gompa called Dhag-kar-lha-dhang of Tibet calling upon the people (of Mustang) to collect fund for the improvement of the Garphoog Gompa of Mustang.

11. The index bearing the seal of the king of Mustang when the idols and other materials in the possession of the Maitreya Jyampa Gompa of Lomathang, Mustang, were audited by the store-keeper.

12. A letter containing the particulars of the taxes to be collected by Mustang from Dolpa.

13. The religious agreement of 5 villages of Thag signed at the village of Marpha.

14. The document establishing the religious practice of the Kagchhyo-de Gompa and the Tiri Gompa by Ku-Shyar Dorje Thor Gyal Bista, the local administrator of 12 villages.

15. A letter originating from Ku-Shyar Dorje Thor Gyal making provisions for payment of sum by the villagers as taxes for Jhar Ghhyo-de Gompa, together with the gift of a set of religious books named Hyum to the Gompa.

16. A letter with a prayer to the king of Mustang written by Thiyog-pa with a stipulation that no residents of 12 villages to be permitted to carry on business straight away with Lhigche of Tibet and the residents of Mustang to be permitted to come down to 12 villages for the purpose of barter and cereals like barley to be permitted to carry upward and from the upper region of Somthang items like yak butter, salt and the like are to be permitted to be brought down.

17. The agreement between Nepal and Tibet made for the purpose of trade and strategic operation dated B.S. ..... This treaty stands unpublished.

Note: The historical materials written in Tibetan script numbering 3 to 4 hundred relating to Tibet, Laddakh and other places and other documents of similar type throwing light on all aspects of economics, society and politics are in safe custody of CNAS. Of the above mentioned documents, many important items on a selective basis have been translated by the researchers of the centre. The historical documents specifically the descriptive works like Chhyag & Karchhyag have already been translated. The documents dealing in external relations and the local customs and manners have been translated into Nepali. In respect of Tibetan materials there is the practice of computation process of the cycle of time of 60 years relating to customs and manners of Tibet, five elements and bio-zoology. They have been converted into easily understood eras, taking into account the historical events. The translated letters have been converted into Bikram eras and the Christian eras after checking their dates. Even those items not yet translated and those used in history writing have been converted into standard calendar. In respect of other letters, they have not been maintained chronologically.

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The District of Myagdi

The district of Myagdi under the western region development sector is a hilly district of the Dhaulagiri Zone. The name of the district Myagdi comes from the Myagdi glacier originating from the Dhaulagiri Himalaya and later flowing as the Myagdi river. The district headquarter is Beni Bazar. This district is bounded in the east Dolpa in the west and Baglung in the south. No other transport facilities except foot trails, pathways and mule tracks are available for going to and coming back from the district. To reach Beni Bazar, the district headquarters of Myagdi one has to make a detour from Naudanda on the Siddhartha Highway and passing through Kusma Bazar of Parvat Beni Bazar is reached. The distance from Naudanda to Beni Bazar is about 32 miles (16 kosas) and the walking distance from Kusma to Beni Bazar is a day. This is the most frequented route for trekkers. Besides this, there is a foot trail to reach Beni Bazar via Lamobagar by climbing up the activity of Dhodini from Baglung. This district has 25 village panchayats.

When the western part of Nepal was under twenty-two and twenty- four principalities, Myagdi was within the principality of Parvat. So the history of Myagdi is the history of Parvat. During the period of the unification of Nepal, Kirti Bom Malla was the king of Parvat. Bahadur Shah attacked and conquered Parvat and Myagdi automatically became a part of Nepal. After that out of four regional headquarters, the Palpa headquarters operated the administration of Myagdi through Parvat. When the panchayat system was introduced, Nepal was divided into 14 zones and 75 district of which Myagdi was one. Currently the zonal administration is run from Baglung and the district administration from Beni Bazar. The materials recovered from this district of the historical source read as follows.

The Revenue Office, Myagdi

There are 6 bunches of documents dating from 1864 to 1992 B.S. (1807 to 1935 A.D.) which are of historical importance. Some of those read like this.

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Tuesday, Marg Vadi 3, 1864 B.S. (November 1807 A.D.) confirming the office of the care taker of the land and the rest-house made in favour of Ram Krishna Padhya Adhikari.

2. The executive order of Kazi Ambar Simha Thapa dated Saturday, Kartik Sudi 7, 1869 B.S. (November 1812 A.D.) confirming the trust of the finger-millet yielding land and the rest-house within the jurisdiction of Parvat Kuhun to be enjoyed by Dandapani Padhya.

3. The executive order of Kazi Bakhatwar Simha Thapa dated Saturday, Baisakh Vadi 3, 1882 B.s. (April 1825 A.D.) confirming the office of the care-taker of the rest-house and the finger-millet yielding field of the Mohani ditch land within the jurisdiction of Parvat Kuhun in favour of Dandapani Upadhya.

4. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Friday, Shrawan Vadi 13, 1895 B.A. (July 1838 A.D.) confirming the office of taking care of the ditch land of Moharn

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within the jurisdiction of Parvat, construction of the rest-house and supplying drinking water to the passers by passing through.

Kshetra Bahadur Shahi, Rakhu village

Kshetra Bahadur Shahi, resident of Rakhu village has the collection of four historical documents dating from 1882 to 1894 B.S. (1825 to 1837 A.D.). Some of these read like this.

1. One piece of document empowering Sangram Pulami of Parvat Goth issued by King Rajendra and endorsed by Garud Dhwaj Pandey dated Monday, Phalgun 1, 1884 B.S. (February 1827 A.D.) to operate the contract for a year.

2. One piece of document issuing a clearance certificate after acknowledging the receipt of butter and woollen blanket as residue for operating the contract for a year by Sangram Pulami. This document was issued by King Rajendra and endorsed by Garuda Dhwaj Pandey and Narayan Jaisi and is dated Wednesday, Phalgun Sudi 1884 B.S. (March 1827 A.D.).

3. The clearance certificate issued by Chatur Ale, the officer- in-charge of Shri Janch (survey) directing the officials concerned not to harass Bhimraj Pulami, though his father and brothers may have committed omission and commission in their sales and purchases of sheep and buffaloes. It is dated Wednesday, Ashadh Vadi 11, 1894 B.S. (June 1837 A.D.).

Bhesh Nath Sharma, Arthunge village

Bhesh Nath Sharma, resident of Arthunge village has a document dated 1949 B.s. (1892 A.D.), which reads as follows:

1. The executive order dated Thursday, Magh Sudi 2, 1949 B.S. (January 1892 A.D.) of Bir Shumshere and Commander-in-Chief Dev Shumshere directing Babaji Hari Narayan Giri and Monk Vishnu Datta Upadhyaya and others, residents of Galeswar, Beni, to maintain and guard the animals and birds by making their population thick of the forests, banks and slopes except that of tigers and bears on the bank of the Gandaki out of Pula Chhatan of Parvat.

Jhalak Bahadur Baniya, Pulami Muni village

Jhalak Bahadur Baniya, resident of Pulami Muni village has three pieces of historical documents dating from 1904 to 1920 B.S. (1847 to 1863 A.D.) out of these some read like this.

1. The executive order of King Surendra counter-signed by Jung Bahadur Kunwar addressed to the village chiefs and clan chiefs as well as the villagers directs them to make the sacrificial posts of the military depots pleasant as the old practice on the basis of old books of accounts as it was found very difficult to carry on fiscal transactions and collect taxes at the sacrificial poles of the military depots. It is dated Wednesday, Magh Sudi 5, 1904 B.S. (February 1847 A.D.).

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2. The executive order of Colonel Dip Bahadur Kunwar dated Thursday, Phalgun Sudi 10, 1920 B.S. (March 1863 A.d.) directing the village head man, the village tax collector, his assistant and the village official next to the head man of Kuhun to maintain the established practice of the village, not to cut down trees ruthlessly and to work together while constructing a bridge and the like. The order further directs that the land attached to the bridge be restored to the bridge, the land attached to the water- mill to the miller and the established practice of the sacrificial post of the military depot be operated.

Dal Bahadur Thapa, Dharapani

Dal Bahadur Thapa, resident of Dharapani, Takam, has in his possession 9 pieces of historical documents dating from 1885 to 1992 B.S. (1828 to 1935 A.D.) out of these some read like this.

1. The directive of captain Bhim Bikram Shah dated Friday, Baisakh Vadi 8, 1894 B.S. (April 1837 A.D.) to send the various charges payable by the subjects on the assumtion of the office by the officials of the village like the village tax-collector and the assistant village head man of Takun, Parvat collect the rent from the land and sign a bond that the person would collect the rent in the manner fixed by the land assessor.

2. The order of captain Bir Bahadur Shah and captain Bhim Bikram Shah dated Poush Vadi 1896 B.S. (December 1939 A.D.) directing the head man, the tax-collector, the rent- collector and senior most villager of Gorkha origin of Mahekot at Nisibhuji, Parvat to restore the sum back to the rightful owner if it is substantiated that Krishna Newar, Lohasur Gharti and Chamu Gharti had by unlawful assembly physically assaulted and exorted money from the victim. The process should be initiated in the manner provided in law.

3. The document under the signature of Amrit Malla dated Tuesday, Bhadra Sudi, 1921 B.S. (September 1864 A.D.) that fines shall be imposed on according to the laws applicable to the mines in respect of the lease of mines of Gaudapani given to Khanel Mahar of the mine and Juddha Bir Thapa Kshetri of the Jugga mine.

4. The document of the rent-collecting office of Shri Parvat dated Wednesday, Jesth 23, 1992 B.S. (May 1932 A.D.) directing the head man of Dharapani, Parvat, Rana Keshar Thapa Chhetri, Pratibhan Pandey Kshetri and Chakra Bahadur Bhandari Kshetri to collect the dues payable to the state annually after re-organising the forest staff according to the usual practice and deliver the buffaloes, goats and sheep as well as to the office handling the collection of the forest and animal products.

Om Bahadur Bogti, Beni village

Om Bahadur Bogti, resident of Beni village panchayat has the collection of 5 documents dating from 1866 to 1929 B.S. (1809 to 1872 A.D.). Some of these read like this.

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Tuesday 1866 B.S. (1809 A.D.) endorsed

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by Ran Dhwoj Thapa and Bahadur Khatri empowering Subba Basant Bogati to enjoy the field for the purpose of setting up a drum and the flag.

2. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Tuesday Baisakh Sudi 6, 1898 B.S. (May 1831 A.D.) empowering Survir Bogti and Ran Simha Bogti to enjoy the sole possession of land of Ratan Chaur after paying rent to the Chapras Company as well as other piece of land of Jyamruk within the jurisdictional district of Parvat.

3. The executive order of King Surendra dated Wednesday, Magh Sudi 5, 1904 B.S. (February 1848 A.D.) empowering Survir Bogati to enjoy the land situated at Jyamruk, Parvat after paying the annual rent and following the traditional practice notwithstanding the contention of his brother and son.

4. This is a note from Subedar Padam Simha Khadka dated Tuesday, Poush Vadi 1926 B.S. (December 1869 A.D.) confirming Santu Bogati Kshetri contract as his sole possession as specified by the Lal Mohar in respect of the land of Ratan Chaur within the jurisdiction of Jyamruk, Parvat.

Pandit Hari Lal Upadhyaya, Takam village

Pandit Hari Lal Upadhyaya, resident of Takam village has the collection of 6 manuscripts dating from 1860 to 1954 B.S. (1803 to 1897 A.D.). They read like this:

1. A manuscript entitled Bhaswati Karan scribed by Satanand dated Thursday 9th of Phalgun Panchami, 1780 Shake (February 1858 A.D.).

2. A manuscript entitled Varsha Phala scribed by Ratnakhar Sharma in Bhadra 1793 B.S. (September 1871 A.D.).

3. A manuscript entitled Lakshmivarta Katha (glories of observing the ceremonies of Lakshmi) scribed by Ratnakhar Sharma dated 1819 Shake and 1954 B.S. (1807 A.D.). It has also a Nepali translation.

4. A translation of Chanakya Niti (Hindu polity) of Chanakya.

5. One manuscript entitled Jyotirvida (astrology) scribed by a saint resident of the Walgu village Chaitra Vadi 9.

6. One manuscript entitled Bhasvati in Nepali scribed by Rukmagat dated Saturday, Chaitra 30.

Dilli Ram Subedi, Nula Chaur

Dilli Ram Subedi, resident of Nula Chaur, has a large collection of manuscripts dating from 1696 to 1843 B.S. (1639 to 1786 A.D.). Some of these read like this.

1. A manuscript entitled "Ratna Mala Shastra" (astrology) scribed by Vishnu Jyotish Brahmin, son of Shri dated Magh Krishna Pakse Sunday, 1561 Shake (Jajuary 1639 A.D.).

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2. A manuscript entitled Shri Kashinath Kritol Chandrika scribed by Daivagya Birbar on Tuesday Phalgun Krishna Nawami, 835 Nepal era (February 1715 A.D.). (It is 59- paged).

3. A manuscript entitled "Savarni Bhavita" written in the town of Kantipur (Kathmandu) on Wednesday, Kartik Krishna Pakse 1692 Shake and 1827 B.S. (October 1770 A.D.).

4. A manuscript entitled "Samhita Path" scribed by Shri Harsha Sharma on Wednesday, Shrawan 11, 1705 Shake (August 1783 A.D.).

5. A manuscript 6-paged entitled "Madan Ratna Pradip Achar" (guide to the code of conduct) authored by Madan Simha Dev on Thursday, Bhadra Krishna Nawami, 1708 Shake and 1843 B.S. (September 1786 A.D.).

Prakash Bania, Pula Mirmuni

Prakash Bania, resident of Pula Mirmuni, has a letter dealing in economic matters dated 1701 Shake (1779 A.D.) and 1907 B.S. (1850 A.D.) and the manuscript relating to cosmogony (Purana). These two items read like this.

1. An executive order of King Kirti Bom Malla dated Sunday, Bhadra 1781 Shake (September 1779 A.D.) directing the Banias to be present regularly on their duties and act as directed in the document. The first recipient of the document is entitled to enjoy the first term and but it is not to be enjoyed by force by transgressing the rules formulated.

2. A manuscript entitled, "Bhugol Puranaka Shristi Vicar (views on creation) scribed by Ram Padhya on Thursday 29th Bhadra, 1772 Shake (September 1850 A.D.) and 1907 B.S.

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The District of Baglung

The district of Baglung is situated in the Dhaulagiri zone within the Western Region Development Sector. Its district headquarters is Baglung. This district in the east is bounded by Parvat, Myagdi and Dolpa in the north, Rukum and Rolpa in the west and Gulmi in the south. It takes two days from Kathmandu to reach Baglung Bazar. If we are lucky enough to catch the plane to Balewa, we can trek eight miles to reach Baglung Bazar. The other means of transport is to fly to Pokhara and catch a bus or a truck to Naudanda of Syangja and from that point Baglung Bazar can be reached by walking 26 miles (13 kosas). If we try to reach Baglung Bazar from other districts, we have to pass through Naudanda of Syangja. This district has 61 villages.

Prior to its integration within the kingdom of Nepal, it was one of the twenty-four principalities. In those days Baglung was a region ruled by the princes of different military out-posts. After its integration with Nepal, the administration of Baglung was operated by the general responsible for the administration of Palpa. In 2008 B.S. (1951 A.D.) Baglung was declared a separate district and came within the Dhaulagiri zone. Currently this district is the zonal headquarters. The materials of historical source recovered from the district read as follows.

The Revenue Office, Baglung

The revenue office of Baglung has the collection of 21 items of historical importance dating from 1877 to 1999 B.S. (1820 to 1942 A.D.). Some of them read like this.

1. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Kartik Vadi 1, 1877 B.S. (October 1820 A.D.) making a grant of rent-free holding to Avadhuta Simha.

2. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Saturday, Chaitra Vadi 11, 1890 B.S. (March 1834 A.d.) and endorsed by Bhim Sen Thapa, Randyot Shah, Phatya Jung Shah, Dalbhanjan Pandey etc. confirming the rent-free holding in favour Shambhu Datta Pandit.

3. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Friday, Magh Vadi 3, 1895 B.S. (January 1839 A.D.) retaining the house and the land attached thereto in favour of Mardan Malla.

4. The document issued by the office of the general survey dated Tuesday, Jesth Sudi 15, 1930 B.S. (June 1873 A.D.) containing the total registration of wet land and dry land in short in favour of Bhaktabir Budha.

Tej Bahadur Khadka, Baglung Bazar

Tej Bahadur Khadka, resident of Baglung Bazar, has in his possession 9 items of documents dating from 1859 to 1907 B.S. (1802 to 1850 A.D.). Some of these read as follows.

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1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Shrawan Vadi 1, 1859 B.S. (July 1802 A.D.) authorising Satvar Khadka to enjoy the rent-free holding in appreciation of his services in operating the rituals of Shri Kalika Devi of the Baglung meadow.

2. The executive order of King Girvan dated Jesth Sudi 1872 B.S. (June 1815 A.D.) empowering Satvar Khadka for operating the trust of Shri Kalika Devi.

3. The document under signatures of Dubal Khadka, Satvar Khadka and Rithu Khadka dated Sunday, Baisakh Vadi 6, 1875 B.S. (April 1818 A.D.) directing Batu Khadka, Chamudan and Aman Khadka to operate the annual functions as well as casual rituals with the various materials of Shri Kalika Devi.

4. The note of Colonel Khadga Bahadur Kunwar dated Tuesday, Marg Vadi 7, 1907 B.S. (November 1850 A.D.) authorising Dhakrya Panipat, the priest of Shri Mahakali and Shri Mahalakshmi of Baglung to enjoy the land provided for the trust of the deities.

Bal Bahadur Sherchand, Baglung Bazar

Bal Bahadur Sherchand, resident of Baglung Bazar, has in his possessions 5 items of documents dating from 1852 to 1945 B.S. (1795 to 1888 A.D.). Out of these some read like this.

1. The executive order of King Ran Bahadur dated Friday, Chaitra Sudi 1, 1852 B.S. (April 1795 A.D.) directing the senior most village chief and the local gentry to see that the tract to the deity of Narikot is not washed away by the Gandaki and take measures for its protection and construct the tract to the shrine of the deity.

2. The document of Commander-in-Chief Jung Bahadur Kunwar dated Wednesday, Chaitra Vadi 8, 1903 B.S. (March 1847 A.d.) directing twelve Thakalis of Thak to continue the established practice and carry on the necessary treaties and agreements.

3. This is the bond caused to be signed by 12 village chiefs to collect the custom duties by Subba Kavi Raj. It is dated Wednesday, Ashadh Sudi 15, 1937 B.S. (June 1880 A.D.).

Upendra Raj Joshi, Baglung

Upendra Raj Joshi, resident of Baglung, has in his possession three documents dating from 1844 to 1966 B.S. (1787 to 1909 A.D.). This read as follows.

1. The document of Commander-in-Chief Ranoddip Simha Kunwar addressed to 13 Thakalis and clan chiefs making an inquiry whether or not Chamu Thakali's litigation relating to his taking away the yak under forgery has been settled, together with the reason for his act. It is dated Thursday, Poush Sudi 13, 1917 B.S. (December 1860 A.d.).

2. The executive order of Captain Chakrapani Sapkota directing the company of Bard Bahadur platoon to shoot to kill the rebels going down to the Tarai whenever they

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are found and report the matter to the authorities.

Nar Bahadur Pun, Bhuji Dogadi

Nar Bahadur Pun, resident of Bhuji Dogadi, has in his possession items of documents dating from 1871 to 1922 B.S. (1814 to 1865 A.D.). Out of those, some read like this.

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Sunday, Baisakh Sudi 4, 1871 B.S. (May 1814 A.D.) and endorsed by Ranbir Simha Thapa, Birbhadra Kunwar and Randhowaj Thapa re- confirming the exemption of terminal tax and custom duties on the food stuffs brought in from outside when the matter was reported to the king in respect of established practice of exemption for 4000 people of Nisibhuji.

2. The executive order of King Girvan dated Sunday, Baisakh Sudi 4, 1871 B.S. (May 1814 A.D) and endorsed by Ranbir Simha Thapa, Birbhadra Kunwar and Randhowaj Thapa confirming the exemption from terminal tax on food stuffs except the shoe makers and cobblers and empowering the 4000 subjects of Nisibhuji to go a hunting.

3. The executive order of Commanding Colonel Krishna Bahadur Kunwar retaining the land and the house attached thereto which have been in his possession hitherto in favour of Kashi Ram Pun. It is dated Friday, Baisakh Sudi 15, 1904 B.S. (May 1847 A.D.).

Bharat Bom Malla, Malkot

Bharat Bom Malla, resident of Malkot, has in his possession 6 pieces of documents dating from 1859 to 1925 B.S. (1802 to 1868 A.D.). Some of those read like this.

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Friday, Kartik Sudi 10, 1859 B.S. (November 1802 A.D.) authorising the vassal king of Galkot to take possession of the land assigned. The document is endorsed by Bom Shah Sarwajit Pandey and others.

2. The executive order of King Girvan dated 1867 B.s. (1810 A.D.) addressed to the tax-collectors village headmen, senior most villagers, clan chiefs, receiving benefits from the state, free holders, junior tax-collectors, Kipat-land holders and holders of land with exclusive possession directing them to come to construct the bridge over the Bagmati and those failing to report for the purpose shall be fined.

3. The executive order of King Girvan dated Chaitra Vadi 30, 1870 B.S. (March 1813 A.D.) authorising the vassal king Rajya Pratap Malla of Galkot to take possession of the land granted to him subject to the payment of rent and other charges payable to the tax-collector. The document is endorsed by Shumshere Bahadur Shah and Birbhadra Kunwar.

Udaya Raj Pant, Baglung

Udaya Raj Pant, resident of Baglung, has three historical documents dating from

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1915 to 1934 B.S. (1858 to 1877 A.D.). They read like these.

1. The executive order of premier Jung Bahadur dated Sunday, Jesth Sudi 3, 1915 B.S. (June 1858 A.D.) granting a piece of land with its boundaries defined to Yamdagni Pandit and directing him to recite the Bhagwat Purana for a week annually.

2. The executive order of premier Jung Bahadur Rana dated Thursday, Bhadra Vadi 5, 1933 B.S. (August 1876 A.D.) instructing the contractor of the Beni custom post operating it on wage system basis (amanat) to deliver the priest's fees annually to Yamdagni Pandit in the manner land blown in the previous executive order.

3. The executive order of Commander-in-Chief and premier Ranoddip counter signed by Commanding General Jagat Shumshere dated Saturday, Jesth Sudi 14, 1934 B.S. (June 1877 A.D.) confirming the possession of land by reciting the Bhagwat Purana for a week.

Bidur Khadka, Baglung Bazar

Bidur Khadka, resident of Baglung Bazar, has in his possession two documents dated 1845 and 1871 B.S. (1788 and 1814 A.D.). They read like these.

1. The executive order of Sardar Amar Simha Thapa dated Saturday, Jesth Sudi 3, 1845 B.S. (June 1788 A.D.) confirming the trust land of the deity of the Baglung meadow in favour of Ram Chandra Padhya.

2. The directive of Colonel Amar Simha Thapa dated Thursday, Jesth Vadi 6, 1871 B.S. (May 1814 A.D.) instructing the priests to operate the routine rituals of Shri Kalika Devi of the Baglung meadow out of the rent from the trust land and divide the residue, if any, among the brothers without quarrelling and they would be fined if they are guilty of misappropriation of the trust property.

Phanindra Raj Pant, Mulpani

Phanindra Raj Pant, resident of Mulpani, has in his possession three documents dating from 1777 to 1844 B.S. (1720 to 1787 A.D.). They read like these.

1. A document dated Baisakh Vadi 6, 1642 B.S. Shake (April 1720 A.D.) written by Ganga Ram Pandit to Ramapati Pandit in respect of his share in partition.

2. A clearance certificate issued by King Ran Bahadur endorsed by the Kazi and the Kharidar (the minister and the administrator) dated Friday, Marg Sudi, 1844 B.S. (December 1787 A.D.) acknowledging the receipt of 450 muris of paddy in consideration of the rent-free holding made in favour of Shiva Pandit.

3. A petition undated submitted to the king by the Vicari (assistant to the judge) of Baglung praying the king to get the rent-free holding (birta) demarcated.

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Tek Raj Pant, Baglung Bazar

Tek Raj Pant, resident of Baglung Bazar has in his possession two documents dated 1879 and 1890 B.S. (1822 and 1833 A.D.). They read like these.

1. An order of Colonel Ujir Simha Thapa dated Chaitra Sudi 12, 1879 B.S. (April 1822 A.D.) directing the assistant judge (Vicari) to refund rent payable for cultivating the dry land (serma) imposed on the priest of Lakshmi Narayan, who is hitherto exempted from such payment and give him justice.

2. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Saturday, Chaitra Vadi 11, 1890 B.S. (March 1834 A.D.) and endorsed by Ranjor Thapa, Bhim Sen Thapa, Dalbhanjan Pandey, Phatteh Jung Shah, Randyot Shah and others re-confirming the grant of rent-free holding in favour of Shambhu Datta Pandit whose great grand- father got the land to that effect from the king of Parvat.

Antar Lal Chuke, Bami Taksar

Antar Lal Chuke, resident of Bami Taksar, has in his possession two documents dated 1911 and 1913 B.S. (1854 and 1856 A.D.). They read like these.

1. A document dated Monday, Chaitra Vadi 2, 1911 B.S. (March 1854 A.D.) granting land for the trust of Shri Mahadev established by Bhajubir Sahu at Musikot. The signatories to the document are Kali Datta Simha, Ranjit Simha, Balbir Karki, Dilaram Bamika, Naran Majhi, Bhakta Ram Jaisi and others.

2. The executive order of King Surendra dated Wednesday, Chaitra Sudi 14, 1913 B.S. (March 1856 A.D.) and endorsed by Commander-in-Chief Krishna Bahadur Kunwar, Lieutenant General Jagat Jung Bahadur Kunwar and Colonel Umakant Padhya granting land to Bhajubir Newar to set up the trust for operating the rituals of Shiwaji at Bamitar of Musikot.

Kshetra Bahadur Bhandari, Ramche

Kshetra Bahadur Bhandari, resident of Ramche has in his possession a document dated 1892 B.S. (1835 A.D.). It reads as follows.

Bhakta Bahadur Karki, Jaspur

Bhakta Bahadur Karki, resident of Jaspur has in his possession 8 documents dating from 1889 to 1941 B.S. (1832 to 1884 A.D.) and two manuscripts. Out of these, some read like these.

1. The document under signature of Subba Atmaram Upadhyaya dated Saturday, Ashadh Sudi 4, 1893 B.S. (July 1836 A.D.) granting the contract in favour of Badhai Karki to operate the copper mine.

2. The document under the signature of Ranganath Pandit addressed to the headman, the clan chief and the village tax-collector dated Friday, Magh Vadi 3, 1894 B.S. (January 1938 A.D.) directing them to describe in detail the suit in respect of the

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land owned and possessed by Badhai Karki for a long time.

3. This document dated Friday, Magh Vadi 1941 (January 1884 A.D.) directs Narbir Karki who has been operating the routine rituals of Khadga Devata even after the Gorkha occupation. This executive order of the king retains the operation of the rituals of the deity. This trust was originally founded by King Prithvi Malla of Galkot in favour of the forefathers of Narbir Karki to operate the rituals of the deity during autumn.

The manuscripts

1. One manuscript Bhagwat Purana dated Ashwin 1941 B.S. scribed by Lakshmi Raj Pant.

2. A manuscript entitled "Yajurveda Dhyayin" dated 1806 Shake and 1942 B.S. (1884 A.D.) scribed by Lakshmi Raj Pant on Friday, Magh Shukla Nawami (February).

Kirti Raj Pant, Charaudi, Galkot

Kirti Raj Pant, resident of Charaudi, Galkot, has in his possession 13 pieces of documents dating from 1896 to 1941 B.S. (1839 to 1884 A.D.) together with 6 manuscripts.

1. A note dated Sunday, Ashwin Vadi 12, 1909 B.S. (September 1852 A.D.) written before the inspection office of Shrinath Battalion in respect of the dispute between Lakshmi Ballav Pandey and Shridhar Pant over the house and land mortgaged during time of their forefathers. The note was written with a view to facilitating the on-the spot inquiry (Sarjamin).

2. The document under the signature of Shrinath Pant relinquishing his title to land and garden belonging to his share in favour of Shridhar Pant so that the latter would be able to construct a house to live in. It is dated Thursday, Magh Vadi 9, 1912 B.S. (January 1855 A.D.).

3. A deed under the signature of Shambhu Mali Pant and Nageswari Pant dated Chaitra Sudi 5, 1918 B.S. (March 1861 A.D.) surrendering their title to their share in favour of Shridhar Pant, the elder brother.

4. This is a note of vassal king of Galkot, Prithvi Bom Malla dated Friday, Baisakh Vadi 10, 1925 instructing the shephard grazing his sheep in the forest of Charaudi Tarak. During the grazing period the sheep hard is required to set up his pen for five days in the garden of the royal priest.

Manuscripts

1. The manuscript of Bhagwat Mahapurana dated Kartik Shukla 1856 Shake (November 1934 A.D.).

2. Vishnu Dharma Rahasya (Mysticism of the cult of Vishnu).

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3. The glories of Shri Mahakali, Mahalakshmi and Mahasaraswati scribed on Monday, Poush Krishna Ekadasi 1805 Shake and 1940 B.S. (December 1883 A.D.) by Lakshmi Raj Pant.

4. The manuscript of Padma Purana latter part.

Tej Raj Pant, Ratmate

Tej Raj Pant, resident of Ratmate, has in his possession 13 manuscripts dealing in astrology and cosmogony dating from 1763 to 1861 B.S. (1706 to 1804 A.D.). Besides these, he has hundreds of manuscripts but they are damaged beyond recognition. Out of these, some read like these.

1. A manuscript entitled "Shaucha Dashaka" (rituals of 10 day pureficatory ceremony on the death of a person) scribed in 1606 Shake (1684 A.D.) by Gyaneswar.

2. A manuscript entitled Swapnadhyaya with its sub-title Shesh Samkranti Brihaspati (a work on astrology) scribed in 1648 Shake (1726 A.D.).

3. A manuscript entitled Brahma Shakha Samvad (conversation) between Brahma (creator) and Shakha (a saint) scribed in 1737 Shake and 1872 B.S. (1815 A.D.).

4. A manuscript entitled, Siddhant Kaumudi Vyakhya (interpretation of grammatical principles) scribed in 1763 B.S. (1706 A.D.).

5. A manuscript entitled Amar Kosh III, Part (lexicon of Synonyms) scribed in 1833 Shake and 1969 B.S. Ashwin (October 1912 A.S.).

6. A manuscript entitled Anangrang Asan (Erotica) scribed by Kalyan Malla in 1764 Shake (1842 A.D.).

7. The copy of the column of the water receptacle (Jaladhi) scribed in 1726 Shake (1804 A.D.).

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The District of Parvat

Currently the district of Parvat lies within the Western Region Development Zone in the Dhaulagiri zone. Before the constitutional amendment of Marg 2032 B.S. (November 1975 A.D.) this district was included in the Gandaki zone. This district is predominantly hilly so that the whole district is called Parvat. This district in the east is bounded by Kaski and Syangja, Manang and Mustang in the north, Myagdi and Baglung in the west and Gulmi in the south. It is stretched from north to south while its extent from east to west is narrow. Though this district is backward from the modern stand point of transport, the conventional foot trails and high ways link every part of the district as well as the neighbouring districts. Of the conventional highways to be specific, the most frequented highway is Syangja-Kusma-Baglung route. This highway from Syangja to Baglung is 36 miles long. From Syangja-Kusma is reached via Nagdanda bus stop, the Seti confluence and Kartineta. This district has 50 villages.

The founder of the kingdom of Parvat was Anand Bom Malla. The Malla kings ruled over this kingdom for 12 generations. In 1843 B.S. (1886 A.D.) this kingdom was integrated into the kingdom of Nepal. Prior to it, it was one of the twenty-four principalities. The last Malla king of Parvat was Kirti Bom Malla. After the unification of Nepal, the kingdom of Nepal was divided into small units for facilitating administration and Parvat came under west No. 4 administration. During the administration of premier Bir Shumshere, the district office (Goswara) and the Gauda (the military headquarters) under the district officer (Bada Hakim) ran the administration. Parvat came under the jurisdiction of the Palpa military out post. When the kingdom of Nepal was divided into 14 zones and 75 districts, the chief district officer has been running the administration of this district.

The materials of historical source recovered in this district run like these.

The Revenue Office, Parvat

The revenue office of Parvat has in its possession three documents dating from 1857 to 1894 B.S. (1800 to 1837 A.D.). They read like these.

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Monday, Magh Sudi 5, 1857 B.S. (February 1800 A.D.) confirming the ownership of all state-owned land (raikar) in the possession of the Rajputs throughout the kingdom.

2. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Kartik Vadi 1, 1877 B.S. (October 1820 A.D.) empowering Sahaj Puri to enjoy the wet land given to him by the king of Parvat when he was in office for borrowing rupees 300 from Sahaj Puri.

3. The executive order of King Rajendra addressed to Dhanraj Giri dated Tuesday, Phalgun Sudi 3, 1894 B.S. (March 1837 A.D.) granting land as a trust for the lodging of the wandering monks, fakirs and saints as the caravanserai, rest-house and the flower garden made in 1886 B.S. (1829 A.D.) were found insufficient for the accommodation of the persons named at Kusma Chaur within the jurisdiction

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of Durlu, Parvat. The order was endorsed by Phatya Jung Shah, Dalbhanjan Pandey, Ranjor Thapa, Daksha Shah and Karbir Khatri.

Bhesh Raj Pandey, Limithana

Bhesh Raj Pandey, resident of Limithana village has the collection of 11 documents dating from 1846 B.S. (1789 A.D.). Out of those some read like these.

1. The note of General Bhim Sen Thapa dated Wednesday, Ashadh Vadi 1887 B.S. (June 1820 A.D.) informing Sibya Regmi Lamsal and Baikunth Lamsal that the earlier Lal Mohar is superseded by the subsequent Lal Mohar.

2. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Thursday, Magh Sudi 4, 1886 B.S. (February 1829 A.D.) empowering Vishnu Prasad Pandit to take possession of land situated at Payun, Nuwakot within the jurisdiction of Limi subject to the ownership of Sabuj Company. He is required to observe the rules formulated and pay the charges and dues as required and is entitled to seek loans as and when necessary.

3. A document dated Saturday, Kartik Sudi 4, 1894 B.S. (November 1837 A.D.) under the signature of Kumedan Bhawani Bhagat written to Vishnu Prasad Pandit authorising him to take possession of land subject to the ownership of Gurubakas Company and situated within the jurisdiction of police post of Limi by paying the rent of the land to the military personnel, together with other dues payable therefor.

4. An application filed by Rajaram Bhatta before the district office praying for procuring a copy of the Lal Mohar originally issued by King Prithvi Narayan, being pleased with Rajaram Bhatta, who gave him the land as well as a cowshed attached to the land. The original Lal Mohar was destroyed by fire on Wednesday, Shrawan Sudi 15, 1846 B.S. (August 1789 A.D.) under which he has been enjoying the benefit arising therefrom.

5. The order of the office of the Rajdal Company dated Tuesday, Baisakh Sudi 10, 1903 B.S. (May 1846 A.D.) directing Lakshmi Datta Pandit to postpone the payment of rent of the land attached to the office of the military officer as the land in question has become uncultivable because of its unproductiveness.

6. A document dated Wednesday, Marg Vadi 2, 1914 B.S. (November 1857 A.D.) confirming the power to operate the functions of the court in favour of Vishnu Prasad Pandit Guru Gharana and the entire members of his family.

Nur Bahadur Joshi, Kusma Bazar

Nur Bahadur Joshi, resident of Kusma Bazar has in his possession 6 pieces of documents dating from 1954 to 1993 B.S. (1897 to 1937 A.D.). Out of these some read like these.

1. The sub-outpost of the military station of Kusma No. 4 west directing the village official, the tax-collector, the forest ranger and the rent-collector to provide timber

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without damaging the forest in the manner deemed appropriate if a request is made for the supply of timber for the construction of the house, the cowshed, the rest-house and the travellers' lodge as well as the caravanserai.

2. A voucher delivering the rent after collection through the village rent-collector to the officer-in-charge of the Benikot store in respect. Of the Kipat land attached to office of Commanding General Indra Shumshere the northern wing. It is dated Thursday, Magh 21, 1961 B.S. (February 1905 A.D.). The rent from the said land is collected from the Benikot store on daily wage basis.

3. A document dated Monday, Jesth 5, 1993 B.S. (May 1936 A.D.) confirming the sales deed of some pieces of land given by the mother of the junior Rani, wife of Colonel Bhim Nar Simha Rana of Kopundol, Lalitpur. The land is sold for reciting Bhagwat Purana in memory of her deceased mother.

Durga Bahadur Malla, Pang Village

Durga Bahadur Malla, resident of Pang village has in his possessions 6 pieces of documents dating from 1857 to 1999 B.S. (1800 to 1942 A.D.). They read like these.

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Monday Magh Sudi 5, 1857 B.S. (February 1800 A.D.) refunds all the state- owned lands to all the Rajputs who have been in possession of respective lands and empowers them to occupy the lands as their own except those seized by the state or by the nobles and disposed of the lands.

2. An executive order of General Krishna Bahadur Kunwar dated Sunday, Chaitra Sudi 1, 1906 B.S. (April 1849 A.D.) directing the headmen, clan chiefs (Thari) and rent- collectors within the boundaries of Parvat that the lands belonging to the Rajputs throughout the kingdom of Nepal are exempted from the investment tax of the tax-collector and the fees payable for obtaining a contract. It further directs there is the usage of not dispossessing the land belonging to a Rajput and forbids them to dispossess the house and the garden belonging to Bahadur Malla, a soldier of a platoon. If this order is disobeyed, they shall suffer.

3. The note from premier Sir Chandra Shumshere dated Monday, Jesth 1969 (May 1923 A.D.) addressed to the vassal king of Parvat that whenever he or any member of his clan wants to settle the marriage of his daughter or son or that of his clan, he or the member of his clan is required to report the matter to the premier and get his approval. If this code of conduct is contravened, his office will be subject to dismissal and his house confiscated.

4. The executive order of Commander-in-Chief General Bhim Shumshere dated Jesth 10, 1969 B.S. (May 1912 A.D.) and addressed to the vassal king of Parvat to send two or three girls aged 6 to 14 belonging to pure stock of Thakuris and appropriate to the Rana harem. They are required to be provided with necessary funds enroute to the capital. In default, he is liable to be dismissed from his office.

5. The executive order of vassal King Chandra Bahadur Malla of Parvat dated Monday, Jesth 23, 1962 B.S. (June 1905 A.D.) and addressed to Shantikhar

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Adhikari Jaisi, resident of the Pangnuwar village directing him to bring the land under cultivation and make the village there thickly populated, dispose of the suits coming to his attention in the manner provided in law and collect the charges and fines else he shall be personally liable for delivering the sum.

6. The note of the Commander-in-Chief (Padma Shumshere) dated Kartik 12, 1999 B.S. (October 1942 A.D.) acknowledging the receipt of the gift to him payable in honour of the Durga Puja festival.

Amrit Prasad Joshi, Kusma

Amrit Prasad Joshi, resident of Kusma Bazar, has in his possession 14 pieces of documents dating from 1870 to 1966 B.S. (1813 to 1909 A.D.). They read like these.

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Thursday, Poush Sudi 1, 1870 B.S. (December 1813 A.D.) directing Lakshmi Narayan to collect all the charges payable to the state through established practice and all the persons belonging to 36 castes be brought within the ambit of this law. The document is endorsed by Udaya Giri and Ran Dhowaj Thapa.

2. The executive order of General Bhim Sen Thapa dated Thursday, Marg Vadi 6, 1882 B.S. (November 1825 A.D.) directing Hariram Padhya and Kashiram Padhya, residents Durlung, Parvat not to impose rent on dry land and refund the sum thus collected when Narayan Puri made a representation that the rent on dry land was not collected from 1862 B.S. (1805 A.D.) even by revenue-collector and he was subject to this rent.

3. The order of Daivagya Keshari Pandit dated Thursday, Magh Vadi 8, 1887 B.S. (January 1830 A.D.) directing Dayaram Chhipi to cause all the outstanding due to be paid and transfer all other assignments to Mant Simha.

4. The executive order of Ranganath Pandit, chief among the scholars dated Saturday, Magh Sudi 5, 1894 B.S. (February 1837 A.D.) directing the headman, the contractor and the revenue-collector of Durlung, Parvat not to create trouble and imposed rent on dry land purchased by his forefathers and revenue-exempted under the signatures of the chief executive and other Kazis (Ministers) when Narayan Puri made a representation to that effect to the royal palace because the above-mentioned officials disputed on his right.

5. The letter of priest Kavi Kulkeshari Pandit dated Monday, Jesth Vadi 10, 1900 B.S. (May 1843 A.D.) and addressed to Ram Krishna Newar, headman of the Ragihas village, directing him to settle the outstanding dues of clarified butter and rent collected as revenue and bring all the supporting documents as early as possible and, if he fails to deliver the documents within the stipulated period, evil consequence will result.

6. The document under the signature of priest Kavi Keshari Pandit dated Friday, Marg Vadi 6, 1900 B.S. (November 1843 A.D.) acknowledging through Dhirga Narayan the receipt of the rent on dry land for the year 1899 B.S. (1842 A.D.) of Sikhardanda, Raginas birta holding, butter and the rent from the land.

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7. The document under the signature of priest Kavi Kulkeshari Pandit dated Friday, Marg Vadi 3, 1900 B.S. (1843 A.D.) acknowledging through Dhirga Narayan, the headman the receipt of the balance sheet of the Raginas village as prepared and submitted by priest Vidyaranya Keshari Pandit for the year 1900 B.S. (1843 A.D.) and acknowledges further the receipt of clarified butter as the rent for the year 1900 B.S. (1843 A.D.).

Tri Bikram Brahmachari, Kuna Chaur Village

Tri Bikram Brahmachari, resident of Kuna Chaur village has in his possession four pieces of documents dating from 1886 to 1931 B.S. (1829 to 1875 A.D.). Out of those some read like these.

1. The confirmation deed dated Kartik Sudi 10, 1886 B.S. (November 1829 A.d.) under the signature of General Bhim Sen Thapa made in favour of Madhan Jaisi to enjoy the benefit after paying the duties for the trap set out at Kuna Chaur out of sum deposited with the revenue-collector within the jurisdiction of Tartakot.

2. The executive order of premier and Commander-in-Chief Jung Bahadur Kunwar counter-signed by Commander-in-Chief Bam Bahadur Kunwar authorising Dhan Pati Jaisi to cultivate the barren land of Tartakot and enjoy the product from the land. It is dated Thursday, Phalgun Sudi 2, 1906 B.S. (March 1849 A.D.).

Man Puri, Kusma Village

Man Puri, resident of Kusma village, has in his possession a document dated 1877 B.S. (1820 A.D.).

1. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Kartik Vadi 1, 1877 B.S. (October 1820 A.D.) and endorsed by Dalbhanjan Pandey, Ran Dhwaj Thapa, Pran Shah and others confirming the house and the land attached thereto of Kusma Chaur within the jurisdiction of Durlung in favour of Sahaj Puri.

Chitra Raj Pandey, the Phalewas Village

Chitra Raj Pandey, resident of the Phalewas village, has two pieces of documents dating from 1877 to 1889 B.S. (1820 to 1833 A.D.). They read like these.

1. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Thursday, Poush Vadi 5, 1877 B.S. (November 1820 A.D.) and endorsed by Jagjit Pandey, Randyot Shah, Pran Shah and others confirming the ownership of the rent-free holding in favour of Krishna Pathak and his brothers donated to them by the king (of Parvat) when he was in office.

2. The executive order of King Rejendra dated Friday, Phalgun Sudi 3, 1889 B.S. (March 1833 A.D.) re-confirming the ownership of dry and wet land within the area of Balewa in favour of Gautam Padhya and Rajeshwar Padhya Brahmins given to them by the king of Parvat when he was in office in consideration of 200 rupees taken from them.

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Bhagwan Das, the Modibeni Village

Bhagwan Das, resident of the Modibeni village, has in his possession 4 pieces of documents dating from 1905 to 1912 B.S. (1848 to 1855 A.D.). Out of these, some read in this way.

1. An executive order of Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief General Jung Bahadur Rana dated Friday, Marg Vadi 14, 1905 B.S. (November 1848 A.D.) empowering Jayaram Das Vairagi not to let trees cut down of Modibeni for making a pasture land nor at the pasture land of the Bod village of the Kusma Chaur within the jurisdiction of Parvat. If timber be needed, the task should be done in the manner prescribed for the forest administration.

2. The order of Colonel Khadga Bahadur Kunwar dated Saturday, Magh Sudi 7, 1907 B.S. (February 1850 A.D.) directing the subordinate judge (Amali) and the village official (Thari) to arrest those responsible for letting loose their she-buffaloes and destroying the standing crop and felling trees on the slope and clearing the area belonging to Palpa and send them to the capital under military escort when the matter was brought to the attention of the authorities.

3. The office of general survey dated Wednesday, Ashadh Sudi 12, 1912 B.S. (July 1855 A.D.) directing Dwarika Das Vairagi not to evict the tenant from his land.

Chhatra Raj Regmi, the Pang Village

Chhatra Raj Regmi, resident of the Pang village, has in his possession 4 pieces of documents dating from 1868 to 1910 B.S. (1811 to 1853 A.D.). They read like these.

1. The order of Kazi Bhim Sen Thapa, Kazi Randhowaj Thapa and Kazi Bal Narsimha Kunwar dated Tuesday, Ashwin Sudi 14, 1868 B.S. (October 1811 A.D.) informing the military personnel of the Sabuj Company from the rank of Subedar to the lowest informing them that the rent-free holding of Sardar Sukh Dev Joshi has been confirmed.

2. The depositional document dated Saturday, Chaitra Vadi 4, 1903 B.S. (March 1847 A.D.) issued through Dittha (Judge) Hari Charan Padhya of the Baglung Taksar (custom office) directing the shoe makers of the trust land of Karkikot, Maghkot and Baglung to act as provided for preserving the trees and protecting the bark of the trees of Palpa.

3. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Wednesday, Jesth Vadi 11, 1880 B.S. (May 1823 A.D.) making a grant of land entitled Khaniyabansa Baguwa within the jurisdiction of Tartakot to Padmawati, wife of Sukh Dev Joshi when she petitioned to the king for a piece of land to set up the image of Lord Shiva, build a temple to house the deity and build a caravanserai. The Lal Mohar includes Chakrapani Joshi, the nephew of Sukh Dev Joshi, as the trustee of the trust of the deity.

4. The executive order of Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief Jung Bahadur Kunwar Rana counter-signed by Commander-in- Chief Bam Bahadur Kunwar Rana directing Gangadhar Padhya, assistant to the judge of the Baglung court to settle

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the dispute over the forcible seizure of house hold utensils belonging to the Newar traders by the clan chief of Thak claiming that their houses are subject to custom duties.

Tulsi Nath Poudel, the Gyadi Village

Tulsi Nath Poudel, resident of the Gyadi village, has in his possession 7 manuscripts dealing in Cosmogony, ritualism, observance of ceremonies and vedant (philosophy) dating from 1510 to 1877 Shake (1588 to 1955 A.D.). Out of 7, some read like these.

1. A manuscript dated Marg 1510 Shake (November 1588 A.D.) and entitled vedant Sara Tika (a gloss on the essence of vedant pholosophy) scribed by the chief of the wandering monks (Shankar ?).

2. A manuscript entitled Vidagdha Mukhamandan scribed by Dharma Das dated Monday, Chaitra Sudi 5, 1674 Shake and 1809 B.S. (1753 A.D.).

3. A manuscript entitled Maharnava Bidhan Nibandh scribed by Visheshwar on Wednesday, Chaitra Sudi 10, 1702 Shake and 1837 B.S. (1780 A.D.).

4. A manuscript entitled Indrani Stotra scribed by Gopinath Sharma dated Kartik Shukla Dasami, 1877 Shake (November 1955 A.D.)

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The District of Arghakhanchi

The district of Arghakhanchi situated within the Western Region Development Sector is a district of the Lumbini Zone. The two districts - Argha and Khanchi - were unified and were jointly called Arghakhanchi. Khanchikot was the old district headquarters. The district headquarters is currently situated at Sandhikhark. The district is bounded in the west by Piuthan and Dang, in the east by Palpa and Gulmi, in the north Piuthan and Gulmi and in the south the district of Kapilvastu. The main transport connections in the districts are the foot trails, highways, mule track and trekking. For want of bridges in the district, transport in the rainy season is hampered. Palpa is deemed the nearest district of this district. Arghakhanchi can often be reached by people via Tansen Bazar of Palpa. As there is a motorable road to Patharkot of Arghakhanchi, the district headquarters of Arghakhanchi via Patharkot can be reached. It takes two days' trekking journey from Palpa to reach the district headquarters of Arghakhanchi. There are 40 villages in the district.

During the medieval period Argha was one of the twenty-four principalities ruled by Zilla Rais who had originally come from Siswangadh. During the administration of Aurangzeb, Shiva Ram Shah escaping from Gadhwal defeated the Rais and began to rule over Argha. In 1843 B.S. (1786 A.D.) Argha and Khanchi came under the subjugation of King Maha Datta Sen of Palpa. In 1848 B.S. (1791 A.D.) the Gorkha army after signing a treaty with Garhwal in the west returned and after the fall of Bahadur Shah King Ran Bahadur Shah amalgated Argha and Khanchi, including Palpa into the kingdom of Nepal.

Even after the amalgation of Argha and Khanchi into the kingdom of Nepal, this administration of this office was run from the Palpa military governor. From 2009 to 2019 B.S. (1952 to 1962 A.D.) Argha and Khanchi went under the jurisdiction of Gulmi. After 2024 B.S. (1967 A.D.) the administration of this district as a separate administrative unit has been run by the district office.

The historical source materials recovered in this district read as follows.

The Revenue Office, Arghakhanchi

The revenue office, Arghakhanchi, has 4 pieces of documents dating from 1863 to 1939 B.S. (1806 to 1882 A.D.).

1. A copper plate issued by King Girvan Yuddha Bikram dated Wednesday, Baisakh Shukla, 1863 B.S. (April 1806 A.D.) granting 7 ropanis of land of Chatraphedi within the area of Jagdev Bhandari as a trust for building a beautiful rest- house with a care-taker. It is endorsed by Randhowaj Thapa, Dalbhanjan Thapa and Bhim Sen Thapa.

2. The executive order of King Rajendra endorsed by Randyot Shah, Dalbhanjan Pandey, Bhim Sen Thapa and others and dated Sunday, Bhadra 1877 B.S. (September 1820 A.D.) confirming the usufructuary mortgage deed in consideration of money made by the king of Argha when he was in office in favour of Tulai Jaisi.

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3. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Chaitra Vadi 11, 1889 B.S. (March 1833 A.D.) confirming the usufructuary mortgage deed made by the king of Gulmi when he was in office in favour of Nathu Pandey and his brother in consideration of money.

4. The Lal Mohar of King Prithvi Bikram dated Wednesday, Jesth Sudi 8, 1939 B.S. (June 1882 A.D.) empowering Shashidar Swami and Khageshwar Maharam Padhya, the care-taker of the cave of Ratan to enjoy the trust land as their own with a stipulation that the land would not be redeemed by paying off the money involved therein on the basis of the Lal Mohar made earlier in favour of vendor-donor who converted the land into trust acquired through mortgage from the king.

The National Archives, Kathmandu

The National Archives, has in its possession has 5 pieces of documents dating from 1753 to 1931 B.S. (1696 to 1874 A.D.). Those documents as the articles of Mr. Shankar Man Rajbanshi have been published in "Ancient Nepal" volume 7 pages 29-33. They read like these.

1. The executive order of King Damodar Sen Dev dated Phalgun Sudi 1753 B.S. (March 1697 A.D.) authorising Lachhuman Thapa to enjoy the land contentedly (Khatiryama) within his jurisdiction.

2. The bond made by King Bir Kumar dated Sunday, Jesth Sudi .. (May) mortgaging the royal land in favour of Narottam Jaisi in consideration of money.

3. The executive order of King Rajendra endorsed by priest Raghunath Aryal and dated Saturday, Phalgun Vadi 6, 1890 (February 1834 A.D.) confirming the power of operating the routine rituals of Shri Mahakali Devi in favour of Nityanand Jaisi, the priest. He is hereby entitled to take possession of land not included in the jagir land of the military personnel, together with other piece of land for illuminating the image of the deity.

4. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Wednesday, Baisakh Vadi 8, 1902 B.S. (April 1845 A.D.) and endorsed by Mathwar Simha Thapa, Jung Bahadur Kunwar and Umakant Upadhyaya empowering Gokul Padhya and Churia Padhya directing them not to discontinue the operation of the routine rituals of Shri Mahakali Devi, operate the autumn rituals of the deity, reconstruct the shrine of the deity and sing devotional song to the deity within the provisions of this arrangement, they are authorized to operate the trust.

5. This executive order of premier Jung Bahadur counter-signed by Commander-in-Chief Ranoddip and endorsed by Jagat Shumshere, General in-charge of the western wing authorising Devi Das Bhusan the trustee, resident of Rajsthal, Argha to operate the routine rituals, the spring and autumn rituals of Mahakali and operate the traditional practices (dai- dastur) as laid down in the authorization paper. This shall remain operative for a year. It is dated Magh Sudi 8, 1931 B.S.

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In the same way, the historical documents of Arghakhanchi dating from 1936 to 1956 B.S. (1879 to 1899 A.D.) number two pieces collected at the National Archives. Those documents scribed by Shankar Man Rajbanshi have been published in Ancient Nepal volume 18 pages 43-46. They read like these.

1. The executive order of premier Ranoddip dated Saturday, Magh Vadi 11, 1936 B.S. (January 1880 A.D.) and counter-signed by Commander-in-Chief Dhir Shumshere empowering Devi Das Bhusal, the trustee, to operate the reconstruction of the shrine of Shri Mahakali Devi, not to exact corvee, and not to cut down trees on the way side. He is required to operate the trust within the frame work of this provision.

Risamdev Maraseni, Bhagawati Village

Risamdev Maraseni, resident of ward No. 9 Moyag, Bhagawati village, has in his collection two pieces of documents dating from 1895 to 1900 B.S. (1838 to 1843 A.d.). They read as follows.

1. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Friday, Jesth Sudi, 1895 B.S. (June 1838 A.D.) confirming the office of the priest and the operation of the established practice in favour of Namdev Padhya who was granted this office by the king of Gulmi when he was in office.

2. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Phalgun Vadi 8, 1900 B.S. (February 1843 A.D.) and endorsed by Raghunath Aryal confirming the office of the priest and the operation of the traditional practice in favour of Namdev Padhya.

Sobhit Shah, Dhaireni Village

Sobhit Shah, resident of Dhaireni village, has in his possession two manuscripts relating to Hitopadesh (moral tales) dated 1860 B.S. (1803 A.D.). They read like these.

1. This ends the second story of Hitopadesh entitled Suhangedo scribed by Dhanasewak dated Tuesday, Bhadra pada 1725 Shake (1798 A.D.).

2. This ends the fourth chapter of Hitopadesh Shishugyanodaya scribed by Sudhanand in 1860 B.S. (1803 A.D.).

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The District of Gulmi

The district of Gulmi situated within the Western Region Development Sector is located in the Lumbini Zone. The district headquarters is Tamghas. This district is bounded in the east by Syangja and Parvat, Piuthan in the west, Baglung in the north and Arghakhanchi and Palpa in the South. Being a hilly district and no national highways passing through or by it, this district from the view point of transport is backward. Palpa is considered the nearest point to reach the district because Tamghas, the district headquarters is reached from Tansen, the headquarters of Palpa via Ridi. From Ridi Tamghas is reached. Ridi is a trading centre for both Palpa and Gulmi. That is why the most routine route to reach Tamghas is to pass through Ridi. Ridi lies at a distance of 16 miles (8 kosas) from Palpa. Palpa and Gulmi are divided by the Kali Gandaki and there is a motorable road to Ridi and, as there is no bridge over the Kali Gandaki, Tamghas is reached by trekking. Tamghas lies at a distance of 28 1/2 miles distance from Ridi. This district has 97 villages.

Prior to the unification of Nepal Gulmi was one of the twenty- four principalities. In those days the principality was divided into 4 districts. After the integration of Gulmi into the kingdom of Nepal, Gulmi was allowed to survive as a vassal king under the regency of Bahadur Shah and the Shah king of Gulmi was given back his principality. Shiva Shah was the prince of Gulmi. King Ran Bahadur Shah had married Rajrajeswari, the grand daughter of Shiva Shah, prince of Gulmi. After the complete integration of Gulmi into the kingdom of Nepal in 1863 B.S. (1806 A.D.), the district office (Goswara) of Baglung ran the administration of Gulmi as well as the military headquarters of Palpa.

In 2009 B.S. (1952 A.D.) when Gulmi was re-constituted as a separate administrative unit, its administration was run was by the Badahakim (||District Officer), assistant zonal chief and the special officer.

The historical source materials retrieved from the district are as follows:

The Revenue Office, Gulmi

The revenue office of Gulmi has in its possession 10 pieces of historical documents dating from 1854 to 1973 B.S. (1797 to 1916 A.d.). Some of them read like these.

1. The executive order of King Siddhi Pratap Shah dated Thursday, Poush Sudi 5, 1854 B.S. (December 1797 A.D.) confirming unconditionally the possession of the forests and shrubs of Puglipur in favour of Gangadhar Jaisi.

2. The executive order of King Shakti Prachand Shah dated Tuesday, Baisakh Vadi 8, 1872 B.S. (April 1815 A.D.) confirming the mortgage deed of the field of Brihaspati, the village rent-collector.

3. The executive order of King Girvan dated Tuesday, Magh Sudi 5, 1857 B.s. (February 1801 A.D.) empowering all the Rajputs throughout the kingdom to have

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the benefit of the respective possession of the house and the land attached thereto, investment, ornaments and servants without subjecting them to the jurisdiction of the tax-collector.

4. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Phalgun Sudi 3, 1889 B.S. (March 1833 A.D.) and endorsed by Bhim Sen Thapa, Randhowaj |Thapa, Phatteh Jung Shah, Dalbhanjan Pandey, Kul Man Simha Basnyat and others confirming the possession of land in favour of Mahadev Pandey and Maheshwar Pandey.

5. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Friday, Phalgun Sudi 3, 1889 B.S. (March 1833 A.D.) confirming the ownership of land given to Gochad by the king of Gulmi when he was in office.

6. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Phalgun Vadi 2, 1887 B.S. (February 1831 A.D.) confirming the ownership of the rent-free holding which has been in the possession of the brother of Nageshwar Padhya Gyawali since the days when the king of Gulmi was in office.

7. The executive order of Major General Kedar Narsimha Kunwar Rana dated Sunday, Kartik Sudi 9, 1912 B.S. (November 1855 A.D.) directing the village chief, his assistant and the local gentry of the Bhatkuwa village, Gulmi to administer justice to Mangala Brahmani who wanted to make a piece of land called Bhatkuwa as a meadow but it has been opposed by her brothers and the order further directs them to satisfy the lady by letting her make the pasture land.

8. The executive order of King Surendra dated Sunday, Kartik Vadi 6, 1920 B.S. (October 1863 A.D.) exempting the Thakurs and Rajputs throughout the kingdom of Nepal from payment of rent for one year for the houses built on the land belonging to the military person, company and platoon, nobles and other civil servants.

Dhanbir Simha, Musikot

Dhanbir Simha, resident of Musikot, has in his possessions 12 pieces of documents dating from 1886 to 1937 B.S. (1829 to 1880 A.D.). Some of them read like these.

1. The directive of Subedar Kanak Simha Basnyat dated Shrawan Vadi ... 1886 B.S. (July 1829 A.D.) instructing Karnabir Thapa to exercise ownership over the lands of Jiv Adhikari in the Ran Simha company as his Jagir land.

2. The order of Kazi Bakhtawar Simha Thapa directing Kaviraj Thapa to exercise ownership as his Jagir over the land attached to the office of the peon and enjoyed by Trishul Thapa of the Sabuj Company.

3. The order of Chautaria Jyan Shah dated Kartik Sudi 1890 B.S. (November 1833 A.D.) directing Dangar Rana, a soldier, to exercise ownership as his Jagir over the land in the Baraf platoon.

4. The order of Kazi Bakhtawar Simha Thapa dated 1890 B.S. (1833 A.D.) directing Ahiman Thapa to exercise ownership as his Jagir over the land thus far owned by

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Dambar Thapa in the Sabuj platoon.

5. The order of Kazi Bakhtawar Simha Thapa dated 1890 B.S. (1833 A.D.) directing Karbir Raj Thapa to exercise ownership over 2/3 land as his Jagir thus far possessed by himself and attached to the office of the peon.

6. The executive order of King Rajendra Bikram Shah dated Sunday, Magh Vadi 11, 1894 B.s. (January 1837 A.D.) and endorsed by Phatteh Jung Shah, Ranjor Thapa, Dalbhanjan Pandey and Ranganath Panditraj providing for contractual obligations to the village officials of the village within the jurisdiction of Musikot, Parvat and attached to the ownership of Srinath company.

7. This is a hand note dated Wednesday, Poush Vadi 2, 1926 B.S. (December 1869 A.d.) made in favour of Nar Simha Majhi in consideration of the money borrowed.

8. This is the letter under the signature of Ensign Ganja Simha Gharti Kshetri addressed to the village officials and the rent-collectors of Musikot directing them to bring provisions and ration from the villages as the Prime Minister is passing through the villages and, if the premier retinue dies from hunger, they shall be fined and punished.

9. The order of Commanding General Jagat Shumshere of the western wing directing the officials concerned to make safe-conduct to 16 persons under the charge of Major Captain Bir Bhanjan Simha Kshetri up to Musikot without any hindrance. The document is dated Thursday, Poush Vadi 7, 1927 B.S. (December 1872 A.D.).

10. The order of Commanding General Jagat Shumshere Jung Kunwar Rana dated Saturday, Poush Vadi 6, 1929 B.S. (December 1872 A.D.) directing the guards commander to make a safe-conduct to 10 persons, including Ganapati Padhya up to Musikot.

11. A bond written to Ja Simha Thapa Kshetri dated Monday ... Vadi 1, 1930 B.S. (1873 A.D.) in respect of fiscal transaction.

12. This is a deposition dated Thursday, Phalgun Vadi 7, 1935 B.S. (February 1878 A.D.) before the Amal Kachahari of village elders by Phadeni Magarni that there has been quarrel between the son and nani the daughter-in-law of Kaviram for a long time. She has testified to the authenticity of her deposition.

Pandit Parashuram Panthi, Tamghas

Pandit Parashuram Panthi, resident of Tamghas village panchayat has in his possession 7 pieces of documents dating from 1806 to 1970 B.S. (1749 to 1913 A.D.). They read like these.

1. The document of King Satyadhan Shah dated Saturday, Kartik Vadi 7, 1671 Shake (October 1749 A.D.) relinquishing his title to the land of Taguwa in favour of Sirapati Padhya.

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2. The redemption paper of King Satyadhan Shah dated 1673 Shake (1751 A.D.) taking back the land pledged to Khalpa Pandey by paying off the mortgaged sum.

3. The document of King Rajendra dated Tuesday, Phalgun Sudi 1889 B.S. (March 1833 A.D.) and endorsed by Bhim Sen Thapa, Patteh Jung Shah, Dalbhanjan Pandey and others confirming the mortgage deed in favour of Mahadev Pandey and Maheshwar Pandey.

4. The executive order of King Surendra dated Friday, Poush Vadi 5, 1936 B.S. (November 1879 A.D.) and counter-signed by Chauttaria (royal collateral) Keshari Jung Parakram Shah, Commanding Colonel Sanak Simha Tandan, Lahure Kshetri and others directing Baley Padhya and Kriparam Padhya to settle the dispute the dispute among the sons of Kapil Padhya, Maheshwar Padhya and others over the land and separate the individual share by the administration of justice and let them exercise ownership over the disputed land.

5. The document dated Saturday, Baisakh Vadi 14, 1937 B.A. (April 1880 A.D.) granting the trust land to Visu Padhya, the priest, to operate the rituals of the deity of Vishnu Paduka temple of Resunga and stipulating that no let or hindrance be done in the performance of the rituals of the deity.

6. The document of King Prithvi Bikram Shah dated Thursday, Jesth Sudi 8, 1939 B.S. (June 1882 A.D.) and counter-signed by Chautaria Keshari Jung Parakram Shah, Chautaria Ransher Shah Commanding General Dhir Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana of the eastern wing, Dwija Raj Pandit, the royal preceptor and others redeeming the usufructuary mortgage of the land pledged by the former king and converted it into a trust land.

Ganesh Prasad Shresth, Rajsthal

Ganesh Prasad Shresth, resident of Rajsthal, has in his possession two documents dating from 1948 to 1976 B.S. (1891 to 1919 A.D.). They read like these.

1. The document issued by the Palpa court dated Thursday, Chaitra Sudi 10, 1948 B.S. (April 1892 A.D.) prohibiting the felling of trees of the forest, setting fire on it, killing animals and birds on the environs of the flower- garden surrounding the temple of Shri Vishnu Paduka of Resunga.

2. The document dated Sunday, Chaitra 23, 1976 B.S. (April 1920 A.D.) making a binding agreement on the persons living at places named within Charpala, Gulmi where the king of Gulmi during the tenure of office had made the grove and the forest around the water-hole of Betpani thickly populated. In pussuance of the arrangement thus made, the persons signatories to the document agreeing to relinquish their title to the land for the maintenance of the forest. This bond is made before the office of the military depot.

Tej Prasad Kandel, Kharjeng Village

Tej Prasad Kandel, resident of ward No. 9 Dandapokhari, Kharjeng village, has in

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his possession one document dated 1916 B.S. (1859 A.D.). It reads as follows.

1. The executive order of General Ranoddip Simha Kunwar, Commander-in-Chief western wing, dated Tuesday, Ashadh Vadi 6, 1916 BS. (June 1859 A.D.) directing the subordinate judge and the village chief of Charpala, Gulmi not to let trees cut down and make the forest thickly populated in the manner provided in the arrangement (Bandej) and authorization (Sanad) made traditionally as Gokul Nath Jogi is going the commit total deforestation.

Thakur Prasad Pokharel, Dhurkot

Thakur Prasad Pokharel, resident of Rajasthal, Dhurkot, has in his possession 4 pieces of documents dating from 1884 to 1887 B.S. (1827 to 1830 A.d.). Out of these, some read like these.

1. The executive order of Ranadyot Shah dated Tuesday, Kartik Sudi 2, 1884 B.S. (November 1827 A.D.) confirming the trust founded by the king of Dhurkot for the operation of the routine rituals of Kalika Devi in favour of Sarmanand Padhya.

2. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Thursday, Baisakh Vadi 10, 1885 B.S. (April 1828 A.D.) confirming the trust land within the jurisdiction of Dhurkot for operating the routine rituals of Shri Kalika Devi of Dhurkot in favour of Sarmanand Padhya. He is authorized to operate the rituals of the deity from now on as well.

3. This executive order of King Rajendra dated Monday, Magh Vadi 12, 1887 (January 1830 A.D.) authorising Hiranand Padhya to operate the routine rituals of Shri Kalika Devi of Dhurkot and take possession of the trust land thus far enjoyed by Sarmanand Padhya.

Negu Bahadur Tandon, Kharjung Village

Negu Bahadur Tandon, resident of Kharjung village ward No. 9 Gairikhutta, has in his possession 3 pieces of documents dating from 1883 to 1916 B.S. (1826 to 1859 A.D.). They read as follows.

1. This is the executive order of General Bhim Sen Thapa dated Thursday, Marg Sudi 15, 1883 (November 1826 A.D.) directing the tax collectors going to Gulmi annually not to collect any gift tax from the local populace as the rest-house trust is not subject to taxation.

2. The executive order of premier and Commander-in-Chief Jung Bahadur Kunwar Rana dated 1905 B.S. (1848 A.D.) authorizing Gajadhar Khatri to take possession of the land as his Jagir. He is required to be on duty regularly round the clock.

3. The executive order of premier Jung Bahadur counter-signed by Commander-in-Chief General Krishna Bahadur Rana directing the headmen, village chiefs and the local gentry of Gulmi not to collect taxes from the land not hitherto exempt from taxation.

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Shumsher Bahadur Malla, Dhurkot

Shumshere Bahadur Malla, resident of Dhurkot village, has in his possession, one copy of the genealogy of the kings of Dhurkot. Formerly Dhurkot and Arghakhanchi formed one principality. The territory of Argha was ruled by the Rais. During the administration of Auranzeb, Shiva Raj Shahi came to Nepal from Dhurkot and ruled over it. Among the sons of Shiva Raj Shah were Jayant Raj Shah, Birendra Raj Shah and Khadga Raj Shah. Currently the descendants of Jayant Shah became the residents of Gahat. The descendants of Birendra Raj Shah have currently settled at Dittha Danda. Khadga Raj Shah was expert in wrestling. As he was victorious in wrestling, his surname became Khadga Raj Malla whose son was Manik Malla. the above said chronology shows that the last Malla ruler of Dhurkot was Rabi Narayan Malla.

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The District of Palpa

Palpa situated within the Western Region Development Sector is a hilly district of the Lumbini Zone. This district is located at the centre of the kingdom of Nepal. This district is stretched east-west and the Dhaulagiri Himal stands as its crest and the Kali Gandaki flowing straight from its partition of head like peak resembles an ornament. While the river flows in its upper reaches, it becomes its northern border. This district with high Himalayan ranges, fertile lands and rivers and rivulets assumes a charming aspect. This district is replete with many religious places of pilgrimage, pleasant historical and natural beauty spots. At the time of the unification of Nepal, the kingdom of Palpa existed as an important and powerful state.

The district is bounded in the north by the districts of Syangja and Tanahun under the Gandaki Zone and the district of Gulmi under the Lumbini Zone and the districts of Nawal Parasi and Rupandehi in the south, the district of Tanahun in the east and Arghakhanchi in the west.

Prior to the unification of many principalities ruled over by princes and princelings, Palpa was a powerful state. The boundary of that kingdom extended up to the Dudhkosi and Tirhut (India) in the south. Even after its integration with the kingdom of Nepal, the military headquarters based at Tansen ran the administration of 9 districts of the west. The Kali Gandaki valley of the district of Palpa lies 1500 feet above the sea- level while its Himalayan peaks rises above 6500 feet.

This district has one town panchayat and 64 village panchayats. The district has 45 offices, public and private.

The collection of materials in this district was conducted at the places mentioned below.

Mangal Prasad Vajracharya, Mint Street

Mangal Prasad Vajracharya, resident of Mint street, has a collection of three books dealing in devotional songs and in Newari script dated 1979 B.S. (1922 A.D.).

Vinay Kumar Kasaju, Srinagar

Vinay Kumar Kasaju, resident of Srinagar located at Tansen and proprietor of Kumar Press has in his possession a book entitled Swasthani Brata Katha in Newari but the script is Devanagari.

Kumarji, Bhagawati Tole

Kumarji, resident of ward No. 9 of Bhagawati Tole within the Tansen town panchayat has in his possession 29 copies of the ordinances in addition to a book enttitled Swasthani Brata Katha. they read like these.

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1. The ordinance dated Sunday, Magh 17, 1994 B.S. (February 1938 A.D.) establishing Nepal Bank Limited.

2. The ordinance dated 1992 B.S. (1935 A.D.) prescribing minimal expense in operating traditional customs and manners from birth to death among the Newar community.

3. The ordinance dated 1993 B.S. (1936 A.D.) banning on the import of Bidi (a brand of cigarette).

4. The ordinance dated Magh 21, 1988 B.S. (February 1932 A.D.) banning all sects of the Kabir cult except the sect of Ram Kabir cult.

5. The ordinance dated Wednesday, Chaitra 14, 1991 B.S. (March 1935 A.D.) relating to the publication of books.

6. The ordinance dated 1991 B.S. (1934 A.D.) relating to new weights and measures.

7. The ordinance dated Thursday Marg 15, 1990 B.S. (December 1933 A.D.) in respect of marriage banning child marriage and determining the marriageable age for each caste and sub-caste.

8. The ordinance dated Wednesday, Bhadra 28, 1996 B.S. (September 1939 A.D.) prohibiting black-market on goods and food stuffs.

9. The ordinance dated 2003 B.S. (1946 A.D.) in respect of establishing industry.

10. The ordinance dated Tuesday, Chaitra 21, 1990 B.S. (April 1934 A.D.) in respect of Section 15 (a) of fines and punishment.

11. The ordinance dated Shrawan 1995 B.S. (August 1938 A.D.) in respect of the registration of land recently reclaimed.

12. The ordinance dated Monday, Moush 29, 1992 B.S. (January 1936 A.D.) banning mica-mining throughout the kingdom of Nepal.

13. The ordinance dated Monday, Poush 6, 1988 B.S. (December 1931 A.D.) in respect of the protection of the standing crop and the hunting of animals.

14. Two ordinances dated 1989 B.S. (1932 A.D.) relating to land registration and 2003 B.S. (1946 A.D.) respectively.

15. The ordinance dated Tuesday, Jesth 31, 1990 B.S. (June 1933 A.D.) relating to money order.

16. The ordinance dated Wednesday, Ashwin 17, 1986 B.S. (October 1929 A.D.) the office of the rent-collector making false deposition shall be subject to dismisal.

17. The ordinance dated 1988 B.S. (1931 A.D.) relating to the harassment made by soldiers transporting the detainees and prisoners from one place to another and

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demanding uncooked rice and pulses from the subjects.

18. The ordinance dated Sunday, Chaitra 9, 1987 B.S. (March 1931 A.D.) in respect of killing rhinoceros.

19. The ordinance dated 1995 B.S. (1938 A.D.) relating to Birta (free hold) lands.

20. The ordinance dated Shrawan 18, 1989 B.S. (August 1932 A.D.) prescribing rules and regulations of pledging or mortgaging state-owned lands, free hold lands or otherwise, houses and shops located within the territory of Nepal to any persons of foreign nationality.

21. The ordinance dated Monday, Phalgun 4, 1988 B.S. (February 1932 A.D.) in respect of hiring employees on wage system basis (amanat) by Habibullah, the lease-holder handling hides and skins as well as horns.

22. The ordinance dated Friday, Phalgun 30, 1989 B.S. (March 1933 A.D.) in respect of bringing into circulation shining stones called yellow Sonamukhi and white Rupamukhi, mila and other mineral called Cadmathuwa and giving employment to the people.

23. The ordinance dated 1988 B.S. (1931 A.D.) in respect of the rent on wintry crop and the appointment of goat herds for taking care of youthful goats.

24. The ordinance dated 1987 and 1989 B.S. (1930 and 1932 A.D.) in respect of time-barred and appealing suits.

25. The ordinance dated 1991 B.S. (1934 A.D.) in respect of the establishment of the commerce promotion institution.

26. The ordinance dated Sunday, Bhadra 27, 1986 B.S. (September 1929 A.D.) relating to the exemption of custom duties.

27. Two ordinances dated 1987 and 1993 B.S. (1930 and 1936 A.D.) relating to cigarettes.

28. The ordinance relating to the circulation of paper money dated 2002 B.S. (1945 A.D.).

29. The ordinance dated 1987 B.S. (1930 A.D.) in respect of regulating the interest rate not exceeding 10% per annum in the Tarai region.

Dil Bahadur Shakya, Mint Street

Dil Bahadur Shakya, resident of Mint street, has in his possession 8 manuscripts. they read like these.

1. The book entitled "Aditya Urat Purana" authored by Bauddhacarya Jit Bahadur dated Wednesday, Marg Shukla 9, 1965 B.S. (November 1908 A.D.).

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2. The book entitled "Pinas Katha" authored by Banddhacarya Jit Bahadur dated Monday, Bhadra Vadi 4, 1972 B.S. (August 1915 A.D.).

3. Aryatara Bhattarika Stotra (a Panegyric on the Buddhist deity) with Newari translation.

4. Amoghpasa Lokeshwar Stotra (a Panegyric on the Buddhist deity).

5. Durga Kawacha (an esoteric hymn on the Hindu deity Durga).

6. Ganesh Stotra (a Panegyric on the elephant-headed deity).

7. Kal Gyan Bivaran Vyakhya (interpretation on the particulars of the knowledge of time).

8. Bhavishya Purana (a work on futurology).

Krishna Prasad Shakya, Mint Street

Krishna Prasad Shakya, resident of Mint street, has in his possession 13 manuscripts. Some of those read like these.

1. A manuscript dated Monday, Marg Sudi 15, 1979 B.S. or 1042 Nepal Sambat (November 1922 A.D.) entitled Bhajanmala (a bunch of devotional songs) scribed by Likhedhan Gubhaju.

2. The collection of songs from King Shriniwas Malla and King Pratap Malla down to King Surendra, together with Pancharaksha, astrology (Jyotisha Shastra), Vaidya Rahasya (Hindu system of medicine), Bhaswati (astrology), Namasangiti (devotional songs), Surya Siddhant (astronomy), Ganapatti Stotra (a panegyric on Ganesh), various collections of Rudra Vakya Dharini (Buddhist hymns), Swasthani Brata Katha (in Newari) and Astami Brata Katha (Newari).

Amrit Bahadur Vajracharya, Mint Street

Amrit Bahadur Vajracharya, resident of Mint street, has the collection of 26 manuscripts in his possession. They read like these.

1. A manuscript relating to hymns scribed in 1916 B.S. (1859 A.D.).

2. A work entitled Bhagawat Gita scribed by Harshamani Vajracharya dated Wednesday, Ashadh Krishna 7, 1919 B.S. or 1784 Shake or 982 N.S. (1862 A.D.).

3. The story of Mudrarakshasa scribed in 1954 B.S. (1897 A.D.).

4. A collection of hymns scribed on Monday, Phalgun Sudi 4, 1956 B.s. (March 1900 A.D.) by Man Kazi Vajracharya.

5. A manuscript named Pancharaksha Bidhan (Buddhist ritual operations) scribed in 1961 B.S. (1904 A.D.), Laksha Chaitya Brat, Navgrah Stotra (hymns on nine

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planets), panegyric, Vajrabarahi Stotra (hymn on hogheaded deity), Garbhagita, Vicitra Kanika Katha (strange story of a grain of rice), Astami Brat Katha (story of the performance of the rituals on the 8th day of the month, Gurumandal Puja Bidhi, a manuscript relating to resolution (Sankalpa), a manuscript dealing in monthly funeral ceremonies, rice- feeding ceremony, Astachiranjibi Puja Bidhi, Kwachhe Kumari Puja, Simha Puja Bidhi, performance of last rites, a manuscript relating to the knowledge of time, Swasthani Brat Katha (in Newari and Nepali), Shana Kalasa Puja Bidhi (performance of bathing the ceremonial jar), a manuscript entitled Amogh Pasha Lokeswar, Pancharaksha and Dharani Sangrah (a collection of hymns).

Yagya Prasad Khajanchi, Bartung Village.

Yagya Prasad Khajanchi, resident of Bartung village, has the collection of 21 pieces of documents dating from 1768 to 1898 B.S. (1711 to 1841 A.D.). Out of those, some read like these.

1. A document issued by the king of Palpa dated Phalgun 1161 Thakuri era (18th century A.d.) authorising Chintamani Khajanchi to collect rent from the land allocated.

2. The document issued by King Maha Datta Sen of Palpa dated Monday, Shrawan Vadi 5, 1837 B.S. (July 1780 A.d.) granting rent-free holding to Chintamani Padhya.

3. The document issued by King Maha Datta Sen of Palpa dated Thursday, Poush Vadi 14, 1839 (December 1782 A.D.) making a grant of free hold to Chintamani Padhya Khajanchi.

4. The document of King Maha Datta Sen of Palpa dated Sunday, Chaitra Sudi 6, 1194 Thakuri era (18th century A.D.) making a grant of free hold to Chintamani Padhya Khajanchi.

5. The document of King Maha Datta Sen of Palpa dated Friday, Ashadh Sudi 5, 1845 B.S. (July 1788 A.D.) making a grant of free hold to Chintamani Padhya Khajanchi.

6. The document of King Maha Datta Sen of Palpa dated Thursday, Shrewan Vadi 10, 1850 B.S. (July 1793 A.D.) making a grant of free hold to Dev Datta Upadhya.

7. The document of King Prithvipal Sen of Palpa dated Wednesday, Jesth Sudi 1, 1852 B.S. (June 1795 A.D.)authorising Chintamani Upadhya to dig a water-course.

8. The document of King Preithvipal Sen of Palpa dated Tuesday, Ashadh Vadi 8, 1853 B.S. (June 1796 A.D.) making a grant of freehold to Chintamani Upadhya.

9. The executive order of the king of Palpa dated Wednesday, Baisakh Vadi 3, 1865 B.S. (April 1808 A.D.) instructing Bishram Khatri to refund the levy collected from the dry land possessed by the Brahman.

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10. The order of Chautaria (royal collaral) Narahari Bikram Shah dated Jesth Vadi 11, 1898 B.S. (May 1841 A.D.) instructing the tax-collecting personnel like the Subedar, Dittha and the record-keeper not to harass the descendants of Chintamani Khajanchi in respect of free hold granted to them.

11. The executive order of the king of Palpa dated Friday, Magh Vadi 9, 1898 B.S. (January 1843 A.D.) instructing the officials concerned not to impose fines and punishment related as brothers and nephews of the person affected.

Chandra Kant Dhakal, Maidanwari

Chandra Kant Dhakal, resident of ward No. 7, Rampur village, Maidanwari, has in his possession two pieces of documents dated 1854 B.S. (1797 A.D.). They read as follows.

1. The report of a person named Jaymangal to King Prithvipal Sen of Palpa dated Monday, Ashadh Vadi 3, 1854 B.S. (June 1797 A.D. on the revenue collection.

2. The executive order of Prithvipal Sen of Palpa dated Thursday, Kartik Sudi 7, 1854 B.S. (November 1797 A.D.) making a grant of free hold to Jaymangal Jaisi.

Jaganath Khajanchi, Bartung Village

Jaganatth Khajanchi, resident of Bartung village, has in his possession 8 pieces of documents dating from 1853 to 1917 B.S. (1794 to 11860 A.D.). They read as follows.

1. The document of King Prithvipal Sen of Palpa dated Tuesday, Bhadra 12, 1853 B.S. (September 1796 A.D.) making a grant of free hold to Purna Bhadra Jaisi.

2. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Poush Vadi 4, 1877 B.S. (December 1820 A.D.) making a grant of free hold to Pramand Padhya.

3. The document of King Girvan dated Wednesday, Baisakh Sudi 5, 11870 B.S. (May 1813 A.D.) making a gift of money to the Upadhyaya Brahmins on the occasion of the royal birthday.

4. The document of General Ranbir Simha Thapa dated Saturday, Kartik 11, 1892 B.S. (October 1835 A.D.) effecting transfer of land in favour of Pramand Padhya.

5. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Thursday, Magh Sudi 1903 B.S. (January 1847 A.D.) effecting exchange of the freehold of a person named Dhanbir.

Keshav Ram Joshi

Keshav Ram Joshi, resident of Palpa, has in his possession, two documents dated 1826 and 1848 B.s. (1769 and 1791 A.D.). They have been published in a journal entitled "Voice of History" published by Tribhuvan University, Part 8 pages 84 to 86.

1. The document of King Mukund Sen of Palpa dated Wednesday, Marg Sudi 15, 1826 B.S. (December 1769 A.D.) making a grant of free hold to Kripa Ram Jaisi.

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2. The document of King Mukund Sen of Palpa dated 1848 B.S. (1791 A.D.) authorising Kripa Ram Jaisi to take possession of free hold.

Salik Ram Bhattarai

Salik Ram Bhattarai, resident of Palpa, has in his possession three documents dated 1898 B.S. (1841 A.D.). They have already been published under the collection of treaties of Itihas Prakash (lights on history) authored by Yogi Narahari Nath.

1. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Friday, Magh Vadi 9, 1898 B.S. (January 1842 A.D.) confirming the trust in favour of the priest of Rhishikesh (page 595).

2. The document of the king of Palpa dated Wednesday, Chaitra Sudi 4, 1822 B.S. (Thakuri era) 1185 or April 1766 A.D. instructing the person named to followed good advice.

3. The document under the signature of the king of Palpa dated Thursday, Marga Vadi 10, 1211 Thakuri era (October 1791 A.D.) to the effect that minting of coins like rupees and pice used to be operated by the public.

Madhav Prasad Devkota

Madhav Prasad Devkota, resident of Palpa, has in his possession, 9 documents dating from 1851 to 1963 B.S. (1794 to 1906 A.D.). They read as follows.

1. The executive order of King Prithvipal Sen of Palpa dated Baisakh Vadi 5, 1851 B.S. (April 1794 A.D.) authorising Sheohari Upadhya Adhikari to make use of the sum collected.

2. The executive order of King Prithvipal Sen of Palpa dated Thursday, Chaitra Sudi 7, 1853 B.S. (April 1797 A.D.) authorising Bhagat Ram Upadhya Parajuli to make use of the sum collected.

3. The executive order of King Prithvipal Sen dated Tuesday, Poush Sudi 4, 1854 B.S. (January 1798 A.D.) making a grant of home stead as well as land to Nathu Padhya.

4. The executive order of King Prithvipal Sen of Palpa dated 1855 B.S. (1798 A.D.) authorising Jagat Padhya Adhikari to make use of the sum collected.

5. The executive order of King Prithvipal Sen of Palpa dated 1858 B.S. (1801 A.d.) authorising Gokul Padhya to make use of the sum collected.

6. The executive order of King Prithvipal Sen of Palpa dated 1860 B.s. (1803 A.D.) authorising Jagat Padhya to make use of the sum collected.

7. The executive order of King Prithvipal Sen of Palpa dated 1211 Thakuri era (1791 A.D.) instructing Jagat Padhya the conversion table of the Gorkhali money vis-a-vis Palpali money.

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8. The document of Janaki Datta Sen, prince of Palpa assuring Gun Shankar Padhya that the outstanding rent due to him shall be recovered.

9. The order of Kazi Ambar Simha Thapa dated Sunday, Chaitra Sudi 4, 1863 directing Janardan Padhya not to harass Samant Padhya.

The Temple of Ran Ujjeswari Bhagawati, Palpa

1. The copy of the Lal Mohar related to the trust of the deity dated Monday, Kartik Vadi 3, 1891 B.S. (October 1834 A.D.) in the possession of Prem Man Shakya the trustee of the temple of Ran Ujjeswari Bhagawati.

2. The inscription on the bell. It is dedicated to the goddess Bhagawati by Ran Kumari on Friday, Kartik Vadi 3, 1876 B.S. (October 1819 A.D.).

3. The inscription under this bell is in Sanskrit dated Shake 1751 and 1886 B.S. or 1829 A.D..

4. The inscription on the lion made of copper and tin alloy. It is dedicated to the deity on Sunday, Bhadra Krishna Astami 1990 B.S. (August 1933 A.D.) by Hari Das and Purna Das temporarily staying at Tansen and sons of Shankar Das permanent resident of Pode Tol, Kathmandu.

5. The inscription on the bell partially broken and kept near the temple. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva by General Badri Narsimha Kunwar Rana on Thursday, ... 1776 Shake or 974 Nepal era or 1911 B.S. (1854 A.D.).

The records of various items dedicated to the temple of Bhairav, Palpa

1. The inscription on the gold-coated window. It was dedicated to Shri Bhairav on Friday, Baisakh Sudi 15, 1945 B.S. (May 1888 A.D.) by the,unflinching servant of premier Bir Shumshere Thong Ling Pimma Ko Kang Wang Syang - Hari Bhakta, his second eldest son Bhagawat Bhakta and his wives Krishna Kumari, Ganga Devi, Krishna Maya, his sons - Tulsi Bhakta, Dev Bhakta, Adi Bhakta, Hansa Bhakta, Lila Bhakta, his daughter Ganesh Kumari and his grandson Ratna Bhakta. All the above-mentioned persons dedicated the gold-coated window to the deity.

2. The inscription on the image of a female made of copper. this was dedicated to Shri Bhairav of Palpa on Tuesday, Marg Sudi 15, 1969 B.S. (December 1912 A.D.) by Mir Subba Durga Prasad Shrestha, grandson of Gauri Narayan and son of Devi Ram, his wife Vishnu Devi, his son Purusottam Prasad, Shyam Prasad and Baikunth Prasad.

3. The inscription of the sacrificial post. The sacrificial post was dedicated on Phalgun Sudi 1934 B.S. (March 1877 A.D.) to Shri Bhairav Nath by Major Captain Lalit Man Simha Basnyat Kshetri. Five grievous sins shall be invited by the person uprooting the sacrificial post.

4. The inscription on the stone column. It was dedicated to the deity on Saturday, Chaitra Sudi 8, 1952 B.S. (April 1895 A.D.).

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5. The inscription on the stele. A big silver-coated Trident, together with a silver coated drum, dedicated to Shri Bhairav Nath of Palpa on Saturday, 25th Jesth Sudi 8, 1991 B.S. (June 1934 A.D.) by Major General Jasendra Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana.

6. The inscription the silver Trident. Dedicated to Shri Bhairav of Palpa by Iswar Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana.

7. Inscription on other silver Trident. The Trident weighing 184 1/2 tolas of silver (Indian) dedicated to Shri Bhairav Nath on Saturday, Baisakh Vadi 1, 1951 B.S. (April 1894 A.D.) by Lieutenant General Rudra Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana.

Bhimsen Temple, Ward No. 3 Tansen Town, Bhimsen Tole.

1. One bell dedicated to the deity on Tuesday Shrawan Sudi 5, 1939 B.S. (August 1882 A.D.).

2. The inscription on the brass plate covering the stone at the plinth of the temple. The brass plate was dedicated by Kismat Bahadur and his wife Vishnu Kumari Munankarmi, resident of Bhimsen street, Tansen, Palpa on the 10th of Bhadra, 2037 B.S. (August 1980 A.D.) - the full moon day of Shrawan, 2037 B.S. - to Ganesh (elephant headed deity, Bhimsen and his consort Draupadi at the places of their worship.

3. The inscription at the finial could not be copied.

Ward No. 2 Narayan Street, Tansen Town, Narayan Temple, Palpa

1. The inscription on the plinth of Garuda (the mount of Vishnu) made of metal. This metal Garuda was dedicated by Mahalakshmi, daughter of Bakh Lakshmi, wife of Mana Dharma Bhagat, resident of Kathmandu. On Friday, Bhadra Sudi 6, 1936 B.S. (September 1879 A.D.) during the administration of General Bir Shumshere Jung whosoever casts covetous eyes or misappropriates it in any way shall be guilty of five heinous crime.

2. A copper plate made in 1863 B.S. (1806 A.D.) by Ambar Simha Thapa (father of Bhimsen Thapa) with a trust of land yielding 477 muris of paddy for operating its rituals and annual function. Out of his name, it is called Ambar Narayan.

3. The inscription on the copper plate mounted on a column to the right of the temple. Two looking-glasses and one parasal dedicated to Shri Amareshwar Narayan on Saturday, 5th Bhadra 1972 B.S. (August 1915 A.D.) by Bhairav Bahadur Khadka Kshetri with his permanent address at Naikap, Kathmandu and residing as a lodger at Tansen and employed as a ward of Vigyan Shumshere.

4. The inscription on the portable chariot to be carried along the street during the annual function of the deity. This portable shrine was built by Colonel Ujjir Simha on Saturday, Marg Vadi 1878 B.S. (November 1828 A.D.) for celebrating the annual function of Ambar Narayan. The persons from Bartung the trustees of this deity are required to maintain and repair the portable shrine. This was constructed

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during the administration of ..... This endorsed by Sundar Bada, the trustee. the portable shrine is to be repaired or replaced in case of damage or destruction. Five heinous crimes shall await for the person committing sacrilege. The income of the trust shall come from the rent of the trust land. The annual function is to be caused on the 8th day of Bhadra Vadi (in the month of August).

Tamra Bhimsen Temple (Sen Middle School Amargunj, Palpa)

1. The inscription on the stone tablet of the temple of Bhimsen (Bhairav) could not be deciphered. It is dated 1844 B.S.; 1709 Shake; 1194 Thakuri era (1787 A.D.). As the said stone tablet has reference to the Sen families only, it decipherment is necessary.

2. The inscription on the portable shrine of this deity (Bhairav).

The portable shrine of Shri Bhairav of parade ground street, Tansen was built on Thursday, Shrawan Vadi 30, 1886 B.S. (August 1829 A.D.). The elders were headed by Jay Narayan Choudhari and dedicated to the feet of Shri Bhimsen four times great. the elders are Sadhu Ram, Bhajumani, Dhirja,Juju Mani, Sundar Bada, Jasram, Bhim Narsimha, Bhaju Deo, Shiva Ratna, Dhiraj, Samkha Narayan, Narayan, Bindar Simha, Shiva Narayan, Asha Ram, Jit Narsimha, Tej Narsimha, Gopal, Narayan, Bhaju Simha Bada, Bhaju Deo Makal, Shiva Ratna Lako, Shri Krishna, Jainar, Lakshmi Narayan, the barber, Kirti Man Tabot, the metal caster. the above mentioned persons with fervent devotion contributed sums to the best of their capacity for the construction of the portable shrine. These people seek refuge at the feet of the deity. Lakshmi Shankar. The carpenter is Bir Bhadra.

Though the old is still used for celebrating the annual function of the deity, it is said that this portable shrine is that of Bhimsen of Bhimsen street and the inscription mentioned above corroborates this assertion.

The names and symbol numbers of investigative books relating to the history and culture of Palpa in the possession of the library of Tansen, Palpa, Tribhuvan Multiple Campus.

1. The collection and analysis of historical materials available in Palpa. Edited by Vishnu Prasad Ghimire (assistant lecturer) R. 954.08, 5496 G, 334 P. 2035 C.I.

2. Palpa collection - N.C.N. 080. 5496 N. 351, 2035 C.I.

3. This is Palpa - N.C.N. 954, 5496 N. 351, 2035 C.I.

4. Investigation on the history of kings of the Sen dynasty - R.N. 954.08, 5496 G. 3345, 2035 C.I.

The Revenue Office, Palpa

This office is located at the at the centre of Tansen town. This office was constituted in the decade of 1960 B.S. (1903 A.D.) originally this office was called Palpa revenue office. Like other government offices, this office opens from 10 to 5 and 10 to 4 in summer and winter respectively.

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The documents in this office relate to the catalogue of lands with individual ownership (moth), registration of the lands against the names of the tenants (lumbari) and registration deeds. The bundle of documents showing the individual ownership of the lands dated from 2012 to 2020 B.S. (1955 to 1963 A.D.) as well as the registration of the tenancy is covered with cloth and such a bundle dating from 1964 to 1990 B.S. (1907 to 1933 A.D.) is leather bound. There are in all 97 documents covering various subjects.

The documents in the possession of this office are open only to those directly interested within the frame work of the rules applicable thereto. The catalogue of the documents as well as the list of the registered tenants from 1964 to 2032 B.S. (1907 to 1975 A.D.), the registration deeds from 1979 to 2005 B.S. (1922 to 1948 A.D.) and the bundles with the catalogue of the documents describing individual ownership of lands are maintained in an organised manner.

In respect of registration deeds, the bundle of documents numbers 75, of which the number of books relating to the description of lands and their ownership from 1964 to 1982 B.S. (1907 to 1925 A.D.) is 18, one copy of the law of the land part 1 to 5 dated 2012 B.S. (1955 A.D.) is leather bound, 2 books covering the period 1991 to 2006 B.S. (1934 to 1949 A.D.) are leather bound. they contain rules and regulations framed for operating fiscal administration and one copy prescribing rules for operating its fiscal administration.

The description of the occupancy rights of the tenant reads like this. The name of the village is Palung ..... the rent-collector Lok Bahadur Kanwar Kshetri. The responsibility to collect the rent from the tenants as recorded for annual payment in the ledger book. In respect of collection of rents of other items, he is to be guided by the instruction issued from the centre. In respect of lands not under cultivation, the following procedure shall be followed. It is signed by existing land tenant his land, paying rent in kind like paddy, wheat and butter as agreed upon.

The bundle of the catalogue of the names of persons with tenancy rights numbers 18 as referred to above.

The particulars of the guidelines for the revenue office run like this: to act if the executive order or instruction comes, to prepare the records of the land and the names of the persons with tenancy rights, to initiate actions in respect of trusts, mines, those trusts founded by the members of Rana family, to distribute pensions, to register the new lands remaining unclaimed and demarcate the land thus freshly aligned and the like. This book has 269 pages.

The District Office, Palpa

This district office was set up in 2023 B.S. (1966 A.D.). However, this office has been functioning as the headquarters of the military officer of the district, the central office of the district (Goswara) Lumbini Zonal Office Section No. 1, the office of the special officer and the office of the chief district office since the days of the Rana rule.

The office building is located at the centre of Tansen town. The working hours of this office from mid-November to mid-February are from ten to four and for the

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remaining months from ten to five. This office has the collection of authorization papers, powers and functions of the district office, bunches of documents and the collection of law books. The interested parties with the order of the chief district officer or according to the law and the rules applicable thereto can have access to these materials, but the materials are uncatalogues.

The materials in the possession of this office dating from 1992 to 2028 B.S. (1935 to 1971 A.D.) are extant. The collected materials kept in bundles may run to 70 to 75. Some of them read like these.

1. The regulations for postal system Part II 1993 B.A.(1936 A.D.) - one copy.
2. Various tasks relating to the postal system, postal tariff, wages, monthly payment and the like and the correspondence from and to Baglung, Palpa and Kathmandu relating to the postal system and back and forth of the copies of documents, authorisation papers and the like. This booklet leather bound has 81 pages.
3. The laws and rules applicable throughout the kingdom 1993 B.S. (1936 A.D.).
4. Law book Part 4 - 1992 B.S. (1935 A.D.).
5. The Regency Council Act, Government of Nepal - 2010 B.S. (1953 A.D.).
6. Village Panchayat Act, 2006 B.S. (1949 A.D.).
7. Town Panchayat Act, 2007 B.S. (1950 A.D.).
8. The Regency Council Act, Government of Nepal, 2011 B.S. (1954 A.D.).
9. The rules of panchayat, 2002 B.S. (1945 A.D.).
10. The rules for the maintenance of the state employees, 1968 to 1999 B.S. (1911 to 1942 A.D.).
11. The law of the land Part 3, 1992 B.S. (1935 A.D.).
12. The law of the land Part 2, 2009 B.S. (1952 A.D.).
13. The collected issues of Nepal Gazette from 2007 to 2028 B.S. (1951 to 1971 A.D.). There are 32 issues.
14. Manual relating to district administration, 2026 B.S. (1969 A.D.).
15. Correspondence relating to village panchayat.
16. The copy of rules and authorization papers dated 2007 B.S. (1950 A.D.). Originating from the district revenue of Gulmi to the auditor's office of Palpa. Its contents are: (a) to act if the executive order of the premier of the instruction of the authorities directs, (b) to prepare the records of the trust land and collect the rent thereof, (c) to take measures in respect of mines, (d) to collect various feudal

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dues like forced labour and other exactions, (e) to sell the rents collected in kind as registered in the ledger books and maintain records of the fiscal transactions thus made, (f) to collect rent in kind where there is provision for that and collect rent in kind from those willing to deliver rent in kind, (g) to collect fees from the tenant when confirmed, (h) to initiate actions when a petition is submitted for reclamation, (i) to determine the rent of the farrow land recently brought under cultivation, (j) to define the rent of the land where the produce is equally divided, (k) to collect the dues relating to haulage by relay and (l) to report to the authorities in respect of the rent of the fourth grade land for which executive order has been made or the land entered under the tenancy rights of the tiller washed away by the river or lost in the landslide or otherwise untraced. The 170 paged book giving guidelines to prepare the ledger defining the position of the tenants vis-a-vis rents payable therefor is leather bound.

17. File bundle 9

In the same way, the district office, Palpa, has 71 bundles of documents. Some of those read like these.

1. The document dated 2012 B.S. (1955 A.D.) relating to repairing the roof built of thin bricks by corrugated sheets of the office of the auditor of Palpa Gauda.

2. A document dated 2016 B.S. (1959 A.D.) making a grant of rupees 1000 for constructing the road for the official tour.

3. A document dated 2016 B.S. (1959 A.D.) relating to the construction of the motorable road in Palpa.

4. A document dated 2016 B.S. (1959 A.D.) relating to the repair works to be done of the public buildings and offices.

5. The monthly fiscal report showing the sources of income and the items of expenditure of the Palpa military headquarters.

6. A document dated 2016 B.S. (1959 A.D.) relating to the construction of the building where the government of Palpa lives after completing formalities.

7. A document dated 2016 B.S. (1959 A.D.) for providing telephone connection and pieces of furniture to the appellate court of Palpa.

8. A document dated 2016 B.S. (1959 A.D.) relating to the construction of the roof of the Palpa armoury replacing its thin sheets of baked clay with corrugated sheets.

9. A document dated 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.) relating to the construction of a house currently used as a shed by the Palpa prison office.

10. A document dated 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.) regarding the construction of the houses and bungalows to be used for the district chief officers on tour-cum-duty.

11. A document dated 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.) in respect of the attendance of the Palpa Gauda employees.

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12. A document dated 2017 B.s. (1960 A.D.) relating to the construction of the road from the confluence to Butwal.

13. A document dated 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.) relating to the repair works to be done of the public buildings including the post office of Palpa.

14. A document dated 2018 B.S. (1961 A.D.) regarding the construction of the air field on the Srinagar Hill of Tansen, Palpa.

15. A document dated 2019 B.S. (1962 A.D.) regarding the construction of the flag (Nisana) temple of Palpa.

16. A document dated 2019 B.S. (1962 A.D.) regarding loans and assistance to be extended to those affected by flood in Palpa and Ridi.

17. A document dated 2019 B.S. (1962 A.D.) in respect of the payscale of the guards of the Ranighat mansion of Palpa.

18. A document dated 2019 B.S. (1962 A.D.) regarding the circular of the fixation of price for 2019 to 2020 B.S. (1962 to 1963 A.D.).

19. An application dated 2019 B.S. (1962 A.D.) alleging the misappropriation of the public properties attached to the Ranighat mansion, Palpa.

20. A document dated 2020 B.S. (1963 A.D.) in respect of the construction of Mohan Kanya School (Palpa).

21. A document dated 2020 B.S. (1963 A.D.) in respect of bringing water from Ridikot, Palpa.

22. A document dated 2020 B.S. (1963 A.D.) in respect of X-ray machine for Tri-Chandra Hospital, Palpa.

23. The order dated 2020 B.S. (1963 A.D.) that the sum allocated for one year should not be spent next year.

24. A document dated 2020 B.S. (1963 A.D.) approving the expenditures incurred by Sher Bahadur Shahi, chief officer, when he made a tour the villages, together with the sum spent on the oilfed lamps, his travelling allowance and his dearness allowance.

25. The document dated 2021 B.S. (1964 A.D.) in respect of the materials at the armoury, including explosives.

26. A document dated 2022 B.S. (1965 A.D.) in respect of utilising the unclaimed properties for development purposes.

27. A document for construction the building for storing paddy.

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The District Court, Palpa

This court is located at the centre of Tansen town. Its establishment was made in 2021 B.S. (1964 A.D.). However, it was called the district court up to 2018 B.S. (1961 A.D.), but it has functioned as a court since the days of the Rana regime. Like other public offices, its working hours are ten to four for three months (mid-November to mid-February) and for the rest of the year ten to five. The documents in the possession of the court are approximately 50,000 and charters, rules, ordinances and notes and the like number 400. In this way there are 50,400 documents and these documents date from 1959 to 2043 B.S. (1902 to 1986 A.D.) and these are open to the interested parties and those belonging to the legal profession. The registration and cataloguing of these documents are prepared in this way. The particulars of these materials in brief are like these.

1. The charter of Kartik 9, 1959 B.S. (October 1902 A.D.) to release all except the thieves and others except the Brahmins and those under 20 are not to be released.

2. The charter dated Monday, Kartik 17, 1960 B.S. (November 1903 A.D.) to impound and sell the cattle if found destroying the standing crop.

3. The ordinance dated 2005 B.S. (1948 A.D.) relating to the army under the signature of the premier counter signed by the Commander-in-Chief (Dui Chhape) and under the signature of the Commander-in-Chief alone (Ek Chhape).

4. The ordinance dated Wednesday, the 14th of Chaitra, 1991 B.S. (March 1935 A.D.) making it mandatory to register the book published in Nepali language in Nepal or elsewhere with Nepali Bhasa Prakashini Samiti (Nepali language publication committee).

5. The executive order of premier Chandra Shumshere dated Baisakh 30, 1985 B.S. (May 1928 A.D.) prohibiting the operation of making flaming sticks out of deodar trees.

6. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated Friday, the 21st of Ashadh 1998 B.S. (July 1941 A.D.) authorising the nearest appellate court and the court if the appellate is located very far in a case where the prisoner escapes.

7. The charter dated Monday, Chaitra 30, 1971 B.S. (April 1915 A.D.) regarding the gift deed to be effected.

8. The charter dated Sunday, Poush 6, 1976 B.S. (December 1919 A.D.) directing the courts to take cognizance of the suit of the wandering monks in relation to homestead, examine the suit, award fines and punishment and deposit the sum fined with the state treasury.

9. The charter of Friday, Poush 5, 1992 B.S. (December 1935 A.D.) under the signatures of the premier and the Commander-in-Chief regarding women under 45 applying a permit to go to India be examined as to their age.

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10. The charter dated Friday, Marg 21, 1997 B.S. (December 1940 A.D.) under the signatures of the premier and the Commander-in-Chief regarding the pay hike of the personnel of the Palpa court from the judge to the lowest official.

11. Two issues of the charters dated Thursday, Ashadh 10, 1993 B.S. (June 1936 A.D.) and Sunday, Magh 11, 1993 B.S. (January 1937 A.D.) respectively directing the officials concerned to collect the duties on cigarettes manufactured in the factories, enter the sums thus collected in the account book and deliver it to the state treasury on monthly basis.

12. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated Wednesday, Bhadra 11, 1993 B.S. (August 1937 A.D.) that henceforth life-for-life punishment has been abolished and the convicted criminal to be branded and awarded life-long imprisonment.

13. The charter dated Wednesday, Chaitra 28, 1969 B.S. (April 1913 A.D.) relating to religion.

14. The executive order dated Marg 1997 B.S. (December 1940 A.D.) that members of the Rana family and the royal collateral be permitted to come to the capital with prior approval of the administration.

15. The charter dated Poush 25, 2001 B.A. (January 1945) and addressed to the Hill court that the confirmation or otherwise of the state employees made in the year 2000 B.S. (1943 A.D.) has been approved.

16. The copy of the procedure to be followed in case of imposing fines and realising the sum thus fined from the members of the Rana family. It is dated Thursday, Baisakh 4, 1982 B.S. (April 1925 A.D.).

17. The executive order dated Thursday, Chaitra 23, 1990 B.S. (April 1934 A.D.) addressed to the officials concerned to let the Indians live in the Tarai if they have been residing there for a long time.

18. The executive order of the premier dated Phalgun 1986 B.S. (February 1930 A.D.) informing the officials concerned that duties on wool, cotton and the homeless have been lifted and another document dated Tuesday, Chaitr 26, 1986 B.S. (April 1930 A.D.) under the signature of the Commander-in-Chief.

19. The ordinance dated the 31st of Jesth, 1990 B.S. (June 1933 A.D.) regarding the operation of money order.

20. The executive order dated Sunday, Ashwin 29, 1996 B.S. (October 1939 A.D.) directing the general public to exchange the Indian coins with the head of Queen Victoria embossed for the Nepalese coins from the revenue office.

21. The executive order of the premier directing the officials concerned to pray for the issuance of the Lal Mohar where the punishment has to be confirmed only through a Lal Mohar.

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22. While auditing the account under the custody of three offices, the order directs that the sum not exceeding 100 rupees in the possession of the revenue office and 50 rupees in the custody of the court be asked to compensate from the office affected. This order is dated Sunday, Chaitra 30, 1981 B.S. (April 1925 A.D.).

23. The document under the signature of the Palpa Gauda dated Monday, Ashadh 28, 2000 B.S. (July 1943 A.D.) that the conversion of Indian money be at par with the Nepalese money.

24. The charter signed by the premier and counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated Wednesday, Phalgun 1, 1997 B.S. (February 1941 A.D.) in respect of determining the period of sentencing.

25. The charter dated Wednesday, Jesth 11, 1990 B.S. (May 1933 A.D.) in respect of postal system.

26. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief in respect of the deposit lying with the office to be entered into the ledger book. It is dated Sunday, Shrawan 26, 1998 B.S. (August 1941 A.D.).

27. The charter dated Thursday, Baisakh 25, 1999 B.S. (May 1942 A.D.) directing the offices concerned to refund the sum to the litigant entitled to recover from the court of the Nobles (Bharadari), together with the examination of the administration of justice meted out.

28. The charter dated Thursday, Baisakh 25, 1999 B.S. (May 1942 A.D.) directing the appellate courts of the Hill to execute the judgement by the courts themselves inrespect of sentencing the convicted offender, imposition of fines and imprisonment.

29. The executive order of the premier dated Thursday, Poush 11, 1998 B.S. (December 1941 A.D.) directing the courts that the signature of the assistant (Taharir) is not required in litigations.

30. The executive order dated Sunday, Shrawan 11, 1999 B.S. (July 1942 A.D.) that a Muslim wearing a cap without a top shall be punished.

31. The executive order dated Ashwin 1995 B.S. (October 1938 A.D.) directing the district chief not to go out on tour.

32. The executive order dated Sunday, Shrawan 10, 1994 B.S. (July 1937 A.D.) to get the scrutinisation of the monthly report done and make the list reflecting fines and punishment.

33. The executive order dated Wednesday, Magh 6, 1994 B.S. to destroy the bunches of documents prior to 1980 B.S. (1923 A.D.) and appoint a store-keeper for the non-cash items.

34. The executive order dated Wednesday, Chaitra 28, 1991 B.S. (April 1935 A.D.) reflecting the allocation of the remuneration of the Palpa court from the top official

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to the lowest court, contingency fund and other terminal expenses, together with sum delivered.

35. The executive order dated Wednesday, Phalgun 13, 1988 B.S. (February 1932 A.D.) creating the posts of the Jamadar and the soldier.

36. The executive order dated Friday, Ashadh 24, 1990 B.S. (July 1933 A.D.) to take delivery of the timber in consultation with the authorities responsible for it if timber is required for the general public, Mir Subbas and the tax- collectors.

37. The executive order dated Tuesday, Marg 20, 1996 B.S. (December 1939 A.D.) in respect of the suits of those military personnel deployed currently in India.

38. The executive order dated Friday, Jesth 31, 1998 B.S. (June 1941 A.D.) in respect of those persons employed in the British Gorkha Army.

39. The charter dated Sunday, Ashadh 17, 1997 B.S. (July 1940 A.D.) framing various regulations for judicial administration.

40. The executive order under the signature of the premier dated Thursday, Magh 20, 1989 B.S. (February 1933 A.D.) prohibiting the export of silver and silver vessels.

41. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated Thursday, Magh 24, 1992 B.S. (February 1936 A.D.) routed through Hill Administration Birta Phant in respect of taking cognisance of other suits except those involving death sentence, branding, life-imprisonment, demotion to the lower caste and dispossession of caste (Panchakhat).

42. The original instruction of the court of Nobles (Bharadari) delivered to the court of Palpa on Sunday, Bhadra 21, 1999 B.S. (September 1942 A.D.) to hand over the sum collected from those guilty of felling trees and hunting in the Resunga forest to the saint of Resunga and act as provided in law where fines cannot be imposed.

43. The executive order of the premier with the counter-signature of the Commander-in-Chief dated Sunday, Jesth 13, 1997 B.S. (May 1940 A.D.) directing the officials concerned to report on the dispatch of the image of the deity.

44. The executive order of the premier with the counter-signature of the Commander-in-Chief dated Thursday, Chaitra 23, 1996 B.S. (April 1940 A.D.) in respect of propagating cottage industry.

45. The document dated Wednesday, Ashadh 28, 1996 B.S. (July 1939 A.D.) relating to providing meals to the dacoits detained by the general of western wing.

46. The charter dated Sunday, Ashwin 22, 1996 B.S. (October 1939 A.D.) directing the officials concerned to prepare the payscale of those freshly recruited.

47. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief directing the general public defining the nature of the trees to be protected and taking measures to · maintain travellers' rest-house against damage. It is dated

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Shrawan 27, 1996 B.S. (August 1939 A.D.).

48. The note dated Wednesday, Poush 29, 1995 B.S. (January 1939 A.D.) instructing the offices concerned to change Kantipur and Phaujdari Itachapali into Kathmandu Dewali (Kathmandu civil court) and Phaujdari Adalat (criminal court respectively).

49. The ordinance dated Bhadra 1991 B.S. (August-September 1934 A.D.) promulgated to make arrangement for roads, motors and railways.

50. The executive order under the signature of the Commander-in- Chief dated Sunday, Jesth 22, 1990 B.S. (June 1933 A.D.) instructing the offices to report on the dress of men and women.

51. The charter dated Thursday, Marg 22, 1990 B.S. (December 1933 A.D.) to appoint one foreman and one forewoman to control the prisoners and detentes.

52. The charter dated Wednesday, Phalgun 17, 1992 B.S. (March 1936 A.D.) to change the name of trade promotion organisation into Industrial Board.

53. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated Kartik 1972 B.A. (October-November 1935 A.D.) in respect of the inspection of the prisons.

54. The document relating to the refund of the amount deposited for instituting the suit. It is dated Tuesday, Jesth 22, 1992 B.S. (June 1935 A.D.).

55. The executive order dated Sunday, Ashwin 27, 1992 B.S. (October 1935 A.D.) prohibiting the holding of the office of the rent-collector to the person who has failed to pay the state rent and undergone imprisonment for that offence and released after completing his imprisonment term.

56. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated Wednesday, Poush 17, 1992 B.S. (January 1936 A.D.) in respect of sending monthly report in brief.

57. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated Magh 22, 1993 B.S. (February 1937 A.D.) in respect of the ban on the import of Bidis (a brand of smoking) from the foreign country.

58. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated Thursday, Phalgun 7, 1993 B.S. (February 1937 A.D.) in respect of ordering petition forms and selling them.

59. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief dated Tuesday, Chaitra 17, 1993 B.S. (April 1936 A.D.) in respect of preparing the catalogue of the holdings of districts at the district itself and collecting the rent of the district affected.

60. The executive order of the premier counter-signed by the Commander-in-Chief in respect of providing meals to the prisoners and detentes. It is dated Friday, Baisakh 26, 1993 B.S. (May 1936 A.D.).

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The District of Kapilvastu

The district of Kapilvastu within the Western Region Development Sector is a district of the Lumbini Zone. This town has existed as the most ancient town of the kingdom. King Shuddhodhan, father of Lord Buddha, had his capital some 2500 years before at Kapilvastu, Tilaurakot, located within this district. Its archaeological relics are still extant.

This district is bounded in the north from the foot hills up to the district of Arghakhanchi and to some extent the district of Dang, Deukhuri. It is separated in the south from No man's Land of Basti in the state of Uttar Pradesh. It is separated in the east from the district of Rupandehi by the Kothi Stream and in the west by the Arra Stream from the district of Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Prior to 2019 B.S. (1962 A.D.), it existed as two sub-districts. However, there were 13 other sub-districts (Tappa) within the jurisdiction and for a time the chief district officer and later on the zonal chief had his base of operation.

This district has currently one town and 79 villages.

The historical source materials available in the district read as follows.

1. **Dr. Rudra Pratap Shah, Bahadurgunj**

   Dr. Rudra Pratap Shah, resident of Bahadurgunj (Krishnanagar) has in his possession a copper plates dated Thursday, Ashadh 13, 1895 B.S. ((June 1828 A.D.) and measuring 1.6 X 1 feet. The said copper plate was granted by King Rajendra to Prince Prabhu Shah, great grandfather of Dr. Rudra Shah. The said copper plate refers to the grant of rent-free holdings to Prince Prabhu Shah, the father-in-law of King Rajendra who married his daughter Samrajya Lakshmi.

2. A long letter dated Chaitra 20, 2006 B.S. (April 1950 A.D.) originating from King Tribhuvan, together with the executive order of the premier bearing the sword imprint was granted. According to that letter the rent-free holdings originally granted in 1895 B.S. was reduced to 4000 bighas.

The Temple of Ram-Janaki, Bahadurgunj

On the basis of the inscription on the bell dedicated to the temple of Ram-Janaki located at Mandi Bazar, ward No. 5, Bahadurgunj village, this temple is 124 years old. The inscription dated Bhadra Vadi 8, 1785 Shake (August 1863 A.D.) was dedicated by Dittha Ambar Bahadur, resident of Sanda village, son of Kanak Bahadur and grandson of Dal Bahadur Verma of the valley of Kathmandu. Let victory be achieved by Khargun Ramewa, resident of the Thater Bazar, who is ever dedicated to the service of Lord Ram.

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The Pashupati Pratap Pustakalay

The Pashupati Pratap Library founded in 1993 B.S. (1936 A.D.). The library is under operation according to its rules and regulations. As this library was opened through the active participation of Yogi Pashupati Pratap Puri, it was named after him. This library has the collection of books on religion, literature, history and languages (Bangla, Urdu, Hindi, Sanskrit and English) and other journals, including the Gorkhapatra.

Books are catalogued here and books are classified under Hindi, Nepali and English.

The membership of the library can be acquired by paying rupees 15 as security deposit and rupees 2 as monthly fees. The working hours of the library are 7 to 9 in the morning and 4 to 7 in the evening.

In the Hindi section there are books on literature, biography, medicine and poetry and books on poetry 81 biographies 185, stories 49, novels 38 and dramas 21.

In the Nepali section, there are 30 novels, 54 dramas, 143 poetry books, 214 literature, 10 history books and 18 books on panchayat.

There are 300 books in English section. The highlights of the books extant here are like these.

(a) Here begins the Sabaiya authored by Sundar Vilas. It is dated Jesth Shukla 1, 1970 B.S. (June 1913 A.D.).

(b) The Sukh Sagar scribed by Khem Raj Shri Krishna Das dated 1981 B.S. or 1846 Shake (1924 A.D.). It is a book on the Bhagawat Purana.

(c) There are approximately 100 books on religion and some of them read like these.

1. Vajaseneyi Shri Shukla Yajurveda Samhita dated 1969 B.S. or 1864 Shake (1912 A.D.).

2. Here begins the Durga Upasanakalpa, chapter on Kumar dated Sunday, Poush Krishna 5 according to lunar calendar and 12 according to solar calendar 1999 B.S. (December 1942 A.D.). The book was donated to the library on the death anniversary of Bandhani Ram Upadhyaya by Vishnu Prasad.

3. The book with 7 parts of the Ramayan was donated in 1999 B.S. (1942 A.D.) to the library.

4. New glory a book on religion.

5. Here begins the Shrawani Prayog 1950 B.S. (1893 A.D.).

6. The tonsure ceremony (Upanayan Vidhi). This Sanskrit manuscript is dated 1924 B.S. (1867 A.D.) or 1789 Shake.

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The Revenue Office, Kapilvastu

This office is located almost at the centre of the Taulihawa town. The existence of this office owes its origin to the Rana regime and two revenue offices - Shiva Raj revenue office (Bahadurgunj) and Khajahani revenue office (Taulihawa) - under the jurisdiction of Shiva Raj Taulihawa military headquarters were functioning when in 2022 B.S. (1965 A.D.) all the districts of the country were divided in 75 administrative units and two revenue offices were integrated into one and the district level revenue office was set up as a separate entity.

Though 15 to 20 persons working full time were employed to study the documents for three months, the study of old documents and their collection can not be accomplished. But for want of preservation there is every possibility that the important documents will go on subjecting to decay.

There are approximately 600 bundles of documents relating to records, ledger books indicating the ownership of holdings, bunches of documents, books, vouchers, files, registers and the like. Of these documents which were made available, the documents dating from 1920 B.S. (1863 A.D.) were acquired, but documents earlier than 1920 B.S. (1863 A.D.) can also be procured.

These documents are open to the interested parties from 10 to 4 in winter and 9 to 5 in other seasons during the office hours. As these documents are in a state of disarray, no index of these documents has been prepared.

The contents of the document extant here read like these.

1. The bunches of documents relating to land disputes, including related other documents and petitions. It is dated 1965 B.S. (1908 A.D.).

2. An application in the form of a letter praying for irrigating the land by digging a canal from the lake. It is dated 1920 B.S. (1863 A.D.).

3. There are about 200 bundles of documents relating to registration of land under land administration the .documents from the first of Baisakh 1935 B.S. (mid-April 1878 A.D.) include relinquishment of title to the land.

4. The dispute over the sales and purchases of land belonging to the state. It is dated 1986 B.S. (1929 A.D.).

5. The application dated 1984 B.S. (1927 A.D.) filed by three persons, including one named Lal Bahadur of the village called Bijuwa and routed through the revenue office of Khajahani.

6. A bunch of documents dated 1980 B.S.(1923 A.D.) and sent from the revenue office of Kajahani relating to land disputes.

7. An application dated 1978 B.S. (1821 A.D.) and routed through the revenue office of Khajahani where the land was acquired without any objection by Muzafar Haq and the applicant as the lawful representative of the deceased (Muzafar Haq)

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praying for his name to be registered as the owner of the land.

8. The documents relating to standing assureties for land. It is dated 1958 B.S., (1901 A.D.).

9. A book with leather cover of the Khajahani revenue office under the jurisdiction of Butwal relating to land survey of the area. It is dated 1941 B.S. (1884 A.D.).

10. The general notice dated 1958 B.S. (1901 A.D.) that the office of zamindari shall be restored to the person paying off the state dues and applying for the office.

11. The book with the index of the allocation of the personnel. It is dated Friday, Chaitra 7, 1965 B.S. (March 1909 A.D.).

12. A petition dated 1971 B.S. (1914 A.D.).

13. An application submitted by Jhothari Tharu, resident of the Bairiya village to the revenue office of Khajahani.

The District Court, Kapilvastu

The office of the district court is located almost at the centre of the Kapilvastu town. This office was set up as early as 1942- 1943 B.S. (1885-1886 A.D.) during the Rana administration, but from that period on, it functioned as the Shiva Raj Amini up to 2017 to 2022 B.S. (1960 to 1965 A.d.), it functioned as the subordinate judge's court and from 2022 B.S. (1965 A.D.) on, it has been known as the district court of Kapilvastu.

Like other public offices, its working hours are from 10 to 4 from mid-November to mid-February and from 10 to 5 during the rest of the year.

There are the bunches of documents with the final judgement of the suits as well as their indexes and the bundles of civil suits are 95 in member and criminal suits 40 and 6 bundles in respect of police depot inquiry commission. The bunches of documents from 1966 to 2043 B.S. (1909 to 1986 A.D.) number approximately 80,000.

The index of these bunches of documents has already been prepared and these documents are open to the interested parties within the frame work of the law and rules applicable thereto. The civil and criminal suits deal in land, partition, fiscal transactions and registration.

There are the bunches of documents where judgements were delivered on civil and criminal suits in the district itself and those suits which could not be disposed of in the district have already been sent to the Supreme Court.

Some samples of the bunches of documents read like these.

1. The bunches of documents dated 1977 B.S. (1920 A.D.) relating to land dispute where the parties to the suit are - Ram Harsa Pandey (the plaintiff) and Hari Ratna Kurmi (the defendant).

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2. The bunches of documents dated 1980 B.S. (1923 A.D.) relating to injustice meted out where the parties to the suit are - Ram Uprety (the plaintiff) and Purna Lal (the defendant).

3. The bunches of documents dated 1966 B.S. (1909 A.D.) relating to the concealment and possession of land where the parties to the suit are Karunakar and Gopal Puri.

4. The bunches of documents relating to land dispute dated 1980 B.S. (1923 A.D.) where the parties to the suit are Badri Ahin and Jang Datta.

5. The bunches of documents relating to land dispute dated 1980 B.S. (1923 A.D.) where the parties to the suit are Dhanaraji Tyurahani and Ramphal Simha Kshetri.

6. The bunches of documents relating to land dispute dated 1979 B.S. (1922 A.D.) where the parties to the suit are Moti Sagar and Nepal Ahir.

7. The bunches of documents dated 2028 B.S. (1971 A.D.) relating to the dispute over the occupancy of the land from which the tenant was evicted by the landlord (Ukhada Jagga) where the suit is filed by Chhotakan Kurmi against Bala Bhadranath Pathak.

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The District of Tanahun

The district of Tanahun is a hilly district in the Kosi Zone within the Western Region Development Sector. Damauli is the headquarters of the district. Bandipur was the former headquarters of the district. The district is bounded by Gorkha in the east, Lamjung in the north, Kaski and Syangja in the west and the districts of Palpa, Nawalparasi and Chitwan in the south. Of the important highways of Nepal, one highway - the Prithvi Highway - passes through its headquarters. Seventy two and half kilometres of this Highway runs through this district of Tanahun. As a result the transport to and from the district is more facile compared with other districts. Through this Highway commercial centres like Kathmandu, Pokhara, Birgunj and Butwal can be easily accessible directly. The Mahendra Highway passes through the Gaidakot of this district so that this district has adequate facilities from the view point of transport. There are 43 villages in the district. The principal towns of the district are Damauli, Bandipur, Chundirambha, Tanahunsur, Chhadi Varaha Dhor Varaha, Jyamruk, Kyapani, Rising and Devghat.

Tanahun out of 24 principalities was a powerful principality ruled by the kings of the Sen dynasty. The Magar kings ruled over Tanahun prior to the rise to power of the Sen dynasty in Nepal. After the suzerainty of the Sen dynasty was established in Palpa, this principality was amalgated with Palpa. Later on when King Mukund Sen of Palpa partitioned his kingdom among his sons, Tanahun went to the share of his third Prince Bhringi Sen. After Bhringi Sen, Hanbir Sen, Tri Bikram Sen (first), Damodar Sen, Digvijaya Sen, Kamaraj Datta Sen, Tri Bikram Sen (second) and Kamari Datta Sen ruled over Tanahun. In 1840 B.S. (1783 A.D.) Tanahun was amalgated with the kingdom of Nepal. At that time Har Kumar Datta Sen, brother of Kamari Datta Sen was the king of Tanahun. The historical source materials available in the district read like these.

Indra Bahadur Bhandari, Mohariya, Bandipur

Indra Bahadur Bhandari, resident of Mohariya, Bandipur has in his possession 4 pieces of Lal Mohars and executive orders dating from 1863 to 1877 B.S. (1806 to 1820 A.D.). They read as follows.

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Friday, Shrawan Sudi 4, 1863 B.S. (August 1806 A.D.) and endorsed by Ran Dhoj Thapa, Bhim Sen Thapa and Dal Bhanjan Pandey empowering Jag Dev Bhandari to operate the trust of the travellers' rest-house.

2. The executive order of King Girvan endorsed by Ujjir Simha Thapa and Bir Bhanjan and dated Tuesday Poush Sudi 15, 1871 B.s. (January 1815 A.D.) empowering Jag Dev Bhandari to operate the trust of the travellers' rest-house.

3. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Chaitra Sudi 4, 1876 B.S. (April 1820 A.D.) re-confirming the gift of rent-free holding made to Kaladhar Pramanand Subedi by the king of Bhirkot.

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4. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Kartik Vadi 1, 1877 B.S. (October 1920 A.D.) and endorsed by Bhim Sen Thapa, Ranadyot Shah, Pran Shah and others re-confirming the rent-free holding gifted to Ratnanand Pandit by the king of Kaski when he was in office.

Yogi Narahari Nath

Yogi Narahari Nath has in his possession 3 pieces of executive orders relating to the Tanahun district and dating from 1879 to 1897 B.S. (1822 to 1840 A.D.). These documents have already been published in the collection of treaties series of the Itihas Prakash (lights on history) on pages 655 to 656 published by Yogi Narahari Nath. They read as follows.

1. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Poush Sudi 2, 1879 B.S. (January 1823 A.D.) and endorsed by Bhakta Bir Thapa, Bhim Sen Thapa and Pran Shah confirming the land granted to Jangbir Khan for his guardian killed in action.

2. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Friday, Baisakh Vadi 3, 1897 B.S. (April 1840 A.D.) and endorsed by Megh Raj Pandey authorizing Jagu Khan to build a caravanserai, supply drinking water to the needy and distribute alms out of the proceeds from the trust land.

3. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Saturday, Bhadra Vadi 12, 1892 B.S. (August 1835 A.D.) and endorsed by Pratap Simha Basnyat, Guru Prasad Shah and Phatya Jang Shah confirming the enjoyment of maintenance allowance in favour of Jang Bir Khan.

In the same way Yogi Narahari Nath has in his possession some undated documents of the Tanahun district, which have already been published in the collection of treaties series of the Itihas Prakash pages 655 to 658. They read as follows.

1. The letter of King Har Kumar Datta Sen of Tanahun dated Monday, Phalgun Sudi 2, ... (March .....) and addressed to Mahanand Pandey in respect of good news from Tanahun.

2. The letter of King Har Kumar Datta Sen of Tanahun dated Monday, Ashadh Sudi 2, ... (July .....) and addressed to Parashuram Thapa in respect of good news sent from Tanahun.

3. The letter of King Har Kumar Datta Sen of Tanahun dated Wednesday, Bhadra Vadi 11, ... (August .....) and addressed to Parashuram Thapa in respect of good news sent from Tanahun.

Pandit Naya Raj Pant

Pandit Naya Raj Pant has in his possession 10 pieces of documents relating to the district of Tanahun and dating from 1800 to 1826 B.S. (1743 to 1769 A.D.), which have already been published in "Purnima" No. 52 from pages 47 to 51 by Mahes Raj Pant. Some of those read like these.

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1. The executive order of King Tri Bikram Sen of Tanahun dated Baisakh Sudi 10, 1800 B.S. (May 1743 A.D.) made in favour of Ram Krishna Dhauladi in respect of transfer of land ownership.

2. The executive order of King Tri Bikram Sen of Tanahun dated Magh Sudi 5, 1809 B.S. (February 1752 A.D.) made in favour of Viswarupa Acharya in respect of transfer of land ownership.

3. The executive order of King Tri Bikram Sen of Tanahun dated Thursday, Magh Sudi 11, 1815 B.S. (February 1758 A.d.) made in favour of Hira Panth in respect of transfer of land ownership.

4. The executive order of King Tri Bikram Sen of Tanahun dated Friday, Jesth Vadi 14, 1816 B.S. (May 1759 A.D.) made in favour of Gunanand Panth in respect of transfer of land ownership.

5. The executive order of King Tri Bikram Sen of Tanahun dated Baisakh Sudi 14, 1817 B.S. (1760 A.D.) made in favour of Krishna Dev Pandit in respect of transfer of land ownership.

Similarly Pandit Naya Raj Pant has in his possessions two pieces of documents relating to the district of Tanahun and dated 1827 B.S. (1770 A.D.). These documents have already been published in "Purnima" No. 53 p. 10 by Mahes Raj Pant. They read like these.

1. One executive order of King Kamari Datta Sen of Tanahun dated Monday, Bhadra Sudi 7, 1827 B.S. (September 1770 A.D.) making a gift of rent-free holding to Gunanand Panth.

2. The executive order of King Kamari Datta Sen of Tanahun dated Monday, Bhadra Sudi 7, 1827 B.S. (September 1770 A.D.) making the rent-free holding of Gunanand Panth free from all kinds of state dues.

Similarly Pandit Naya Raj Pant has in his possession 7 pieces of documents relating to the district of Tanahun and dating from 1831 to 1839 B.S. (1774 to 1782 A.D.). They have been published in Purnima No. 54 from 19 to 21 pages by Mahes Raj Pant. Some of those read like these.

1. The executive order of King Har Kumar Datta Sen of Tanahun dated Monday, Marg Sudi 10, 1831 B.S. (December 1974 A.D.) made in favour of Ram Chandra Thapa in respect of transfer of land ownership.

2. The executive order of King Har Kumar Datta Sen of Tahahun dated 1832 B.S. (1775 A.D.) confirming the ownership of the rent-free holding given to Dhandhau Padhya for his guardian killed in action.

3. The executive order of King Har Kumar Datta Sen of Tanahun dated Wednesday, Ashwin Sudi 4, 1833 B.S. (October 1776 A.D.) making a grant of home stead to Kashi Ram Naharki.

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Justice Mahendra Bahadur Mahat, Tanahun

Justice Mahendra Bahadur Mahat, resident of Tanahun has in his possession three pieces of executive orders dating from 1863 to 1887 B.S. (1806 to 1830 A.D.), which read as follows.

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Friday, Kartik Sudi 11, 1863 B.S. (November 1806 A.D.) confirming the land registered against the name of Ranbir Mahant and granted by King Ran Bahadur.

2. The executive order of Kazi Bahadur Bhandari and Sardar Bir Chandra Kunwar instructing those deputised to collect doing fee on the marriage of the princes, not to harass the Subedar of the Gurubox Company. It is dated Phalgun Vadi 1864 B.S. (February 1808 A.D.).

3. The Lal Mohar dated Friday, Bhadra Sudi 2, 1887 B.S. (September 1830 A.D.) of King Rajendra and endorsed by Ajambir Simha Thapa, Gajendra Dhoj Jaisi and others giving a clearance certificate to the expenditures operated by Ranbir Mahat when he built the fortress of Dang.

Lok Narayan Mul, Tuhure Pasal

Lok Narayan Mul, resident of Tuhure Pasal, Tanahun has a manuscript dated 1948 B.S. (1891 A.D.) which reads as follows.

1. The manuscript entitled "Bhagawat Bhakti Vilasynya" dated Thursday, Bhadra Krishna Pratipada, 1948 B.S. (August 1891 A.D.) and scribed by Harihar.

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The District of Lamjung

The district of Lamjung within the Western Region Development Sector is located at the centre of the Gandaki Zone. The district headquarters of this area is Besisahar. The old district headquarters was Kunchha Bazar. This district in the east is bounded by Kunchha, Kaski in the west, Manang in the north and Tanahun in the south. Foot trails and mule tracts are the apparent means of transport of this region. To reach this district we have to off-board at the Palungtar air strip and trek for 6 hours. The alternative route is to catch the bus to Damauli and walk on foot for ten hours. This district has 60 villages.

Of the 24 principalities, the principality of Lamjung had acquired considerable sovereignty. King Prithvi Narayan Shah had entered into a friendly treaty with Ripumardan Shah, King of Lamjung while King Prithvi Narayan Shah in course of his unification campaign of Nepal was out on his attack on the valley of Kathmandu with a view to protecting his western flank against the attack from Lamjung. In those days Lamjung was nicknamed a hawk, Gorkha a snake and Kathmandu a frog. The history of Lamjung was linked with the history of Gorkha of the Shah dynasty. The first king of Gorkha belonging to the Shah dynasty was Dravya Shah, the youngest son of Yasobrahma Shah, king of Lamjung. Dravya Shah by defeating the Khadka king of Gorkha had established the Shah dynasty there. After the death of Yosobrahma Shah, his eldest son Narahari Shah ascended the throne of Lamjung. As Lamjung was the original kingdom of the Shah dynasty, there was the false notion that the kingdom of Gorkha should be under the suzerainty of Lamjung as late as the reign of King Prithvi Narayan Shah. On the urge of this conception, Lamjung used to attack Gorkha time and again. The kingdom of Lamjung even after the death of King Prithvi Narayan Shah existed as an independent kingdom.

Taking advantage of the dispute between dowager Queen Rajendra Lakshimi and Prince Bahadur Shah, the twenty-four principalities under the joint command launched an attack upon Gorkha. due to the courage and fortitude of dowager Queen Rajendra Lakshmi, Lamjung was annexed in 1839 B.S. (1782 A.D.) to the kingdom of Nepal and King Birmardan Shah, the then reigning king, fled to the Tarai. After the advent of the panchayat system, the whole kingdom of Nepal was divided into 14 zones and 75 districts and Lamjung became a separate district. Prior to it, Lamjung was administered by the military headquarters based in Pokhara. Currently render the provision of decentralisation the administration of Lamjung is being run by the chief district officer. The historical source materials available in the district are as follows.

The Revenue Office, Lamjung

The revenue office, Lamjung, has in its custody 14 pieces of allusive documents dating from 1849 to 1994 B.S. (1792 to 1937 A.D.).

1. The document under the signatures of Kirtiman and Sardar Jasiwant Bhandari dated Wednesday, Shrawan Vadi 30, 1849 B.S. (July 1792 A.D.) appointing Gajadhar Bhora to the office of the attendant at the Dasain Ghar (the shrine of the family deity).

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2. The executive order of King Ran Bahadur dated Wednesday, Shrawan Sudi 10, 1852 B.S. (August 1795 A.D.) deputising the service-holders of the west of the Marsyandi river when Bhakti Thapa was given a farewell.

3. The document under the signature of Sardar Surdatt Shahi dated Tuesday, Magh Vadi 5, 1860 B.S. (January 1804 A.D.) delivering the rent of the Jagir land to Gajadhar Bhora.

4. The Lal Mohar of King Girvan Yuddha dated Sunday, Kartik Vadi 2, 1864 B.S. (October 1807 A.D.) confirming the rent- free holding as the trust land in favour of Liladhar Pandit.

5. The executive order of General Bhim Sen Thapa dated Saturday, Marg Vadi 4, 1873 B.S. (November 1816 A.D.) retaining the Jagir land attached to the office of the attendant in favour of Mahabir Bhora.

6. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Kartik Vadi 1, 1877 B.S. |(October 1820 A.D.) confirming the ownership of the rent-free holding of Ram Prasad Pandey gifted by the king of Lamjung.

Prem Bahadur Thapa, Raginash

Prem Bahadur Thapa, resident of Reginash, has in his possession 13 pieces of documents. Some of those read like these.

1. The executive order of King Ran Bahadur dated Wednesday, Shrawan Sudi 10, 1851 B.S. (August 1794 A.D.) granting land to the exclusion of others in favour of Bhakti Thapa of Ragibahak.

2. The executive order of King Girvan dated Thursday, Bhadra Vadi 12, 1868 B.S. (August 1811 A.D.) and endorsed by Ran Dhoj Thapa and Bal Narsimha Kunwar exempting Captain Bhakti Thapa from the payment of the fee when seeking audience with the king.

3. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Thursday, Chaitra Vadi 8, 1892 B.S. (March 1836 A.D.) and endorsed by Ranjor Thapa and Bhim Sen Thapa confirming the ownership of land obtained for the death of the guardian in action in favour of Nain Simha Thapa on the basis of the Lal Mohar made earlier.

4. The executive order with sword imprint of General Jung Bahadur counter-signed by second General Jay Bahadur dated Friday, Jesth Sudi 8, 1901 B.S. (June 1844 A.D.) instructing vichari (assistant judge) Chamu Narayan to administer justice in respect of land dispute.

5. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Saturday, Magh Sudi 4, 1902 B.S. (February 1846 A.D.) and endorsed by Phatya Jung, Abhiman Simha Rana, Kulman Simha Basnyat, Gagan Simha, Umakant and Dal Bhanjan Pandey directing Nain Simha Thapa, grandson of Bhakti Thapa, to take possession of maintenance allowance land as the land given to the dependant on the death of the guardian in action.

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6. A letter dated Wednesday, Phalgun 1, 1919 B.S. (February 1863 A.D.) written by Ran Keshar Thapa to his elder brother Samba Simha Thapa Kshetri and his third brother Balbhadra Thapa Kshetri that he is under detention and should get emancipation from detention at any cost.

Shesh Nidhi Pant, Chiti Tilahara

Shesh Nidhi Pant, resident of Chiti Tilahara, has in his custody 5 pieces of documents dating from 1875 to 1939 B.S. (1818 to 1882 A.D.), which read as follows.

1. The executive order of General Bhim Sen Thapa dated Sunday, Magh Vadi 14, 1875 B.S. (January 1819 A.D.) instructing the tax-collector of Chiti not to harass the land holders with their home stead.

2. The receipt dated Sunday, Magh Sudi 5, 1890 B.S. (February 1834 A.D.) instructing Uday Nidhi Tiwari to pay off the capital and the interest within 15 days to the lender - Vaijnath Lohani.

3. The ordinance dated Tuesday, Chaitra Sudi 9, 1912 B.S. (April 1956 A.D.) that punishment as provided in law would be awarded to the tenants of the Aru Chaur village if they ignore the tax-collector on this or that plea.

4. This is the executive order of General Ranoddip Simha dated Thursday, Phalgun Vadi 4, 1913 B.S. (February 1857 A.D.) instructing the officer-in-charge of the check points to let four persons, including Tula Nidhi Pant, pass through safely to Chiti, Lamjung.

5. The document bearing the signatures of 20 persons dated Thursday, Jesth Vadi 3, 1937 B.S. (May 1880 A.D.) provides management for the cow herds grazing their cattle.

Rame Kumal, Tarkughat

Rame Kumal, resident of Tarkughat, has in his possession 12 pieces of documents dating from 1853 to 1965 B.S. (1796 to 1908 A.D.). Some of those documents read like these.

1. The executive order of Sardar Bhakti Thapa dated Tuesday, Bhadra Vadi 5, 1853 B.S. (August 1796 A.D.) instructing Baliram Thapa and Hridaya Simha Thapa to award rupees 45 to the industrious potters out of the income from Raginas.

2. The executive order of King Girvan dated Sunday, Kartik Vadi 2, 1867 B.S. (October 1810 A.D.) and endorsed by Bhim Sen Thapa, Randhoj Thapa and Dasarath Khatri providing arrangement (bandej) of the postal service to the subordinate judge, the village headman, tax-collectors and subjects carry on postal service.

3. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Saturday, Marg, Vadi 7, 1883 B.S. (November 1826 A.D.) and endorsed by Bhakta Bir, Bhim Sen Thapa, Randhoj Thapa, Dalbhanjan Pandey, Pran Shah, Prasad Simha Basnyat and Ranodyot Shah

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confirming the possession of dry lands for which rents have been paid and baskets carried by the potters of Tarku.

4. The instruction of Dharma Simha Khatri dated Baisakh Vadi 1899 B.S. (April 1842 A.D.) directing the headmen of Tarku - Damodar Ghimire, Jagannath Joshi, Trinidhi Bhatta and Bhakta Pokhrel that the contract of the teachers has been retained and they are not supposed to dispute over it.

5. The ordinance dated Tuesday, Shrawan 30, 1965 B.S. (August 1908 A.D.) notifying the general public that the taxation imposed on the potters and Danuwars has hit them hard so that its collection has been lifted.

Babu Ram Mishra, Kunchha Ampdanda

Babu Ram Mishra, resident of ward No. 4 of Kunchha Ampdanda has in his possession two pieces of documents dated 1877 and 1878 B.S. (1820 and 1821 A.D.), which read as follows.

1. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Kartik Vadi, 1877 B.S. (October 1820 A.D.) and endorsed by Jagjit Pandey, Bhim Sen Thapa, Pran Shah and others confirming the ownership of rent-free holding of Janardan Mishra given to him by the king of Tanahun when he was in office.

2. The document dated Sunday, Baisakh Sudi 11, 1878 under the signatures of Maha Bir Adhikari, Bhim Sen Thapa, Randyot Shah, Pran Shah and others confirming the ownership of rent- free holding of Janardan Mishra who was given the land by the king of Tanahun when he was in office.

Jivanath Gauli, Kunchha Ampdanda

Jivnath Gauli, resident of ward No. 2, Kunchha Ampdanda has two pieces of documents dated 1877 B.S. (1820 A.D.), which read as follows.

1. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Poush Vadi 5, 1877 B.S. (December 1820 A.D.) and endorsed by Jagjit Pandey, Randyot Shah, Bhim Sen Thapa, Pran Shah and others confirming the ownership of the rent-free holding of Dasarath Gauli who was given the land by the king of Tanahun when he was in office.

2. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Sunday, Kartik Vadi 1, 1877 B.S. (October 1820 A.D.) and endorsed by Jagjit Pandey, Bhim Sen Thapa, Randyot Shah, Pran Shah and others reconfirming the ownership of the rent-free holding of Dasarath Gauli who was given the said land by the king of Tanahun when he was in office.

Ram Kumar Rajbhandari, Kunchha Ampdanda

Ram Kumar Rajbhandari, resident of ward No. 1 of Kunchha Ampdanda village has in his custody two pieces of documents dated 1864 and 1867 B.S., which read as follows.

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1. The Lal Mohar dated Monday, Ashadh Sudi 1, 1864 of King Girvan endorsed by Pran Shah, Bhim Sen Thapa, Randyot Shah and Bal Narsimha Kunwar making a trust for the travellers/ rest-house built by Kazi Ambar Simha Thapa in the name of his son.

2. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Wednesday, Poush Vadi 8, 1867 B.S. (December 1810 A.D.) and endorsed by Randyot Shah, Pran Shah, Bhim Sen Thapa, Bal Narsimha and Ranjor Pandey making a trust for the travellers' rest-house built by Kazi Ambar Simha Thapa in the name of his deceased son Ranbhim Thapa.

Bhim Narayan Shah, Thamsing

Bhim Narayan Shah, resident of ward No. 4 Thamsing village has in his possession 18 pieces of documents dating from 1853 to 1919 B.S. (1796 to 1862 A.D.), together with a chronology, some of which read like these.

1. The Lal Mohar of King Ran Bahadur Shah dated Monday, Ashadh Sudi 1853 B.S. (July 1796 A.D.) and endorsed by Tribhuvan, Dalel Simha Basnyat and others re-confirming the home stead land in favour of Shiva Datta Joshi who was given the said land by defining its boundaries by the king of Lamjung when he was in office.

2. The executive order of King Girvan dated Monday, Magh Sudi 5, 1857 B.S. (February 1801 A.D.) empowering the Rajputs to have with content the use of the state-owned land under their possession where they reside.

3. The instruction of Kazi Ambar Simha Thapa dated Sunday, Poush Vadi, 1867 B.S. (December 1810 A.D.) instructing the team leader and his soldiers to register the tenants of the waste land without any let or hindrance.

4. The directive of Ujjir Simha Thapa dated Sunday, Chaitra Sudi 9, 1877 B.S. (April 1821 A.D.) that no charge be paid for the land allocated as maintenance by the guards.

5. The order of General Jung Bahadur Kunwar dated Sunday, Poush Vadi 9, 1903 B.S. (December 1846 A.D.) Commanding Indra Singh Gurung to give up the possession of land occupied by him under duress from Varna Kumari without paying any rent.

6. The order of General Khadga Bahadur Kunwar dated Thursday, Phalgun Vadi 13, 1913 B.S. (February 1857 A.D.) instructing Bakabir Khadka to deliver the sum payable under the terms of contract misappropriating the sum through deceitful means and obtain a receipt for the delivery.

Sher Bahadur Dura, Ratna Devi, Lulungkot

Sher Bahadur Dura, resident of Ratna Devi, Lulungkot, has in his possession 6 pieces of documents dating from 1944 to 1969 B.S. (1887 to 1912 A.D.), some of which read like these.

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1. A letter dated Tuesday, Ashwin Sudi 3, 1944 B.S. (October 1887 A.D.) written by the elder sister Sitalu Maiya to her brother Vajir Simha that she is free from detention and instructing her brother to take her home.

2. A hand note dated Friday ..... Sudi 1961 B.S. (1904 A.D.) made by Pratiman Dura, resident of Bhedikhark, for borrowing a sum of rupees 4 from Mukhiya Jagbir Dura, resident of Tulu village that the borrower agrees to pay the capital and the interest within 15th Poush to the lender. In default the borrower is willing to pay back the sum in the manner imposed upon him by the lender.

3. This is a bond dated Sunday, Magh 15, 1962 B.S. (January 1906 A.D.) made by Kshinath Padhya for borrowing a sum of 55 rupees from Jit Man Dura, resident of Chisankhu, Tulung. Both parties willingly agree to deliver and take possession of the sum thus transacted within the year 1963 B.S. (1906- 1907 A.D.).

Bhesh Kant Adhikari, Duradanda

Bhesh Kant Adhikari, resident of Swanra village, Duradanda, has in his possessions two pieces of documents dated 1852 and 1877 B.S. (1795 and 1820 A.D.), which read as follows.

1. The Lal Mohar of King Ran Bahadur Shah dated Monday, Chaitra Sudi 10, 1852 B.S. (April 1796 A.D.) re-confirming the mortgaged property held by Shuk Dev Adhikari from the king of Lamjung when he was in office.

2. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra endorsed by Jagjit Pandey, Uday Giri, Bhim Sen Thapa, Pran Shah and others and dated Sunday, Poush Vadi 5, 1877 B.S. (December 1820 A.D.) re-confirming the possession of mortgaged property held by Gangadhar Ghimire and Liladhar Baral from the king of Lamjung when he was in office.

Hari Prasad, Duradanda

Hari Prasad, resident of Duradanda has in his possession 6 pieces of documents dating from 1910 to 1940 B.S. (1853 to 1883 A.D.). Some of which read as follows.

1. The document dated Tuesday, Phalgun Sudi 9, 1910 B.S. (March 1854 A.D.) directing 4 soldiers guarding the treasury of the military hardwares and gunpowder magazine at Nuwakot to take delivery of additional due payable by the tenant.

2. The document dated Sunday, Jesth Vadi 5, 1912 B.S. (May 1855 A.D.) delivering the note to collect the rent from the tenants to Jamadar Kul Bir Thapa and Hawaldar Jagat Simha Kunwar of the Ran Simha Company.

3. The document dated Friday, Baisakh Vadi 1, 1934 B.S. (April 1877 A.D.) directing Lieutenant Man Bahadur Gurung to act as provided in law in the dispute between tax-collector Kalu Padhya and Agnidhar Padhya and in awarding fines and punishment.

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Khag Raj Pant, Chiti Tlahar

Khag Raj Pant, resident of Chiti Tilahar, has in his possession 8 manuscripts as well as other works dating from 1857 to 1922 B.S. (1800 to 1865 A.D.). The main topics of the manuscripts are liturgy and esoterica. Some of those read like these.

1. A manuscript entitled "Narayan Kalpawalli" scribed by Krishna Bhattacharya dated 1857 B.S. (1800 A.D.).

2. A manuscript entitled "Tara Puja Paddhati" scribed by Bhattahar Nand during the administration of King Jagat Simha dated 1867 B.S. (1810 A.D.).

3. A manuscript entitled "Yagya Valkya Muni Shastra" dated 1882 B.S. (1825 A.D.).

4. A manuscript entitled "Rudra Yamala Tantra from Vishwa Sarodhara Kalpa" dated 1884 B.S. (1827 A.D.)

5. A manuscript entitled, "Saundarya Lahari" authored by Shankaracharya.

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The District of Syangja

The district of Syangja located within the Western Region Development Sector is a hilly district of the Gandaki Zone. The headquarters of the district is Syangja Bazar. The district in the east is bounded by Tanahun, Parvat and Gulmi in the west, Kaski in the north and the district of Palpa in the south. Previously Syangja was considered one of the remote areas. After the construction of the Siddhartha Highway recently, this district has become easily accessible. Out of 205 kilometres of the Siddhartha Highway or the Pokhara-Sunauli Highway, 79 kilometres of this Highway - from Ramdighat to the Kuvinde pass - run through this district. In addition to this, there are other highways linking the district headquarters from other districts. OUt of such highways, one links Syangja from Kusma of Parvat, the highway linking Syangja from Pokhara of Kaski is the other and the main route linking Syangja from Rangrung of Tanahun is mostly frequented. This district has 107 villages.

Of 24 principalities in the medieval period, four principalities namely Bhirkot, Garaun, Sataun and Nuwakot were located in this district. Each of those small principalities has a ruler of its own. After the conquest of the valley of Kathmandu by King Prithvi Narayan Shah, he sent an army under the command of Bamsa Raj Pandey, Kehar Simha Basnet and Prabhu Malla to conquer the twenty-four principalities in the west. At that time the twenty-four principalities, including Bhirkot, Garaun, Sataun were not subjugated by the Gorkha army. In the mean time King Prithvi Narayan, the national builder, suddenly died and the unification campaign was for the time being suspended. During the regency of the dowager Queen-Rajendra Lakshimi-the initiative to conquer the twenty-four principalities gathered momentum and in 1842 B.S. (1785 A.D.) all the twenty four principalities, including Bhirkot, Sataun, Garaun and Nuwakot of Syangja were completely integrated into the kingdom of Nepal.

During the Rana administration when the country was divided into districts, the district of Syangja came under the jurisdiction of west No. 4. this district was administrated by an administrator, the officer-in-chief and the district chief. After the introduction of the democratic panchayat system, the kingdom of Nepal was divided into 14 zones and 75 districts and the district of Syangja was reconstituted out of four principalities namely Bhirkot, Garaun, Sataun and Nuwakot. the administration of the district currently is run by the chief district officer subject to the zonal administration.

The historical source materials available in this district read as follows.

Mohan Dhoj Khan, Walling Village

Mohan Dhoj Khan, resident of Walling village, has three documents dating from 1869 to 1970 B.S. (1812 to 1913 A.D.), which read as follows.

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Sunday, Baisakh Sudi 8, 1869 B.S. (May 1812 A.D.) and endorsed by Dalbhanjan Pandey, Nir Keshar Pandey, Randhowaj Shah, Pran Shah, Bal Narsimha Kunwar and others making a grant of land within the jurisdiction of Gulmi to Shree Bhakta Khan, the prince of Garaunkot as his maintenance allowance.

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2. The executive order of premier Ranoddip Simha counter-signed by Commander-in-Chief Dhir Shumshere and endorsed by Jagat Jung Rana, Dwij Raj Pandit, the royal preceptor and others confirming possession and ownership of land in favour of Prince Purna Chandra Khan in the manner given to his grandfather through a charter.

3. The executive order of premier Chandra Shumshere dated Wednesday, Kartik 4, 1970 B.S. (October 1913 A.D.) re- confirming the title of "Rajah" to the nephew - Gupta Bahadur Khan - of Purna Chandra Khan when a representation to the premier was made through a petition to that effect and he was instructed to seek the approval of the premier prior to his marriage. Gupta Bahadur Khan was further instructed to acquire English education.

Dinesh Raj Pant

Dinesh Raj Pant has in his possession one historical document dated 1849 B.S. (1792 A.D.) relating the district of Syangja. This document has already been published in Purnima Nos. 17 and 48. It reads as follows.

1. A copper plate issued by King Ran Bahadur dated Friday, Poush Vadi 9, 1849 B.S. (December 1792 A.d.) in favour of Hari Krishna Khan by dismissing Chandra Bhushal Khan, prince of Bhirkot. He is hereby authorized to rule over Bhirkot so long as he is faithful to the kingdom of Gorkha, his office shall be valid. The same condition applies to his descendants.

Similarly Dinesh Raj Pant has in possession a document dated 1843 B.S. relating to the district of Syangja. The said document has already been published in "Purnima" No. 6, p. 53. It reads as follows.

1. The executive order of King Ran Bahadur dated Tuesday, Poush Vadi 7, 1843 B.S. (December 1786 A.D.) Commanding Prabal Rana that the lands of Jahari and Darmu be equally divided between Ranjit Pandey and Golarya. The document is endorsed by Kazi Jiva Shah, Jagjit Pandey, Parath Bhandari and Ambar Simha Rana.

Guthi Karyalaya, Bhadrakali

Guthi Karyalaya, Bhadrakali has a document relating to the district of Syangja. It is dated 1882 and reads like this.

1. A Lal Mohar dated Tuesday, Marg Vadi 4, 1882 B.S. (November 1825 A.D.) confirming the trust land attached to Madhi Bhairav within the jurisdiction Bhirkot in favour of Naga Jaradanath Yogi for operating the routine rituals of the deity.

Pandit Daya Lal Poudyal, Lamageh

Pandit Daya Lal Poudyal, resident of Lamageh has a document dated 1878 B.S. (1821 A.D.) which read as follows.

1. A Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Monday, Magh Vadi 14, 1878 B.S. (January

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1821 A.D.) re-confirming the land to be possessed with contentment in the manner confirmed in 1862 B.S. (1805 A.D.) in favour of Ranganath Pandit, chief among the scholars, who was originally given that piece of land by the king of Sataun when he was in office.

Chet Nath Upadhyaya, Tanahun

Chet Nath Upadhyaya, resident of Tanahun, has two documents dated 1878 and 1881 B.S. (1821 and 1824 A.D.), which read as follows.

1. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Saturday, Baisakh Sudi 11, 1878 B.S. (May 1821 A.D.) and endorsed by Jagjit Pandey, Bhim Sen Thapa, Pran Shah, Randyot Shah and Maha Bir Adhikari confirming the possession of rent-free holding in favour of Dhurai Padhya and Sirai Padhya who were granted the said land by the king of Nuwakot when he was in office. The said land was not affected in 1862 B.S. (1805 A.D.) and had been in their possession and ownership ever since. They were hereby authorized to take benefit from the land with contentment.

2. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Friday, Baisakh Sudi 2, 1881 B.S. (May 1824 A.D.) and endorsed by Randyot Shah, Uday Giri, Bhakta Bir Thapa, Pran Shah and Dalbhanjan Pandey confirming the ownership of land in favour of Hari Sharma and his brother who were granted the rent-free holding by the king of Nuwakot when he was in office. The said rent- free holding was not affected in 1862 B.S. (1805 A.D.) and had been in their possession and ownership ever since. They were hereby authorized to take benefit from the land with contentment (Khatirjana).

Pitambar Koirala, Walling Village

Pitambar Koirala, resident of Walling village, has in his possession one document dated 1848 B.S. (1791 A.D.), which reads as follows.

1. The Lal Mohar of King Ran Bahadur dated Baisakh Vadi 6, 1848 B.S. (April 1791 A.D.) and endorsed by Lakshipati Pandey, Aniruddha Padhya and Ranjit Pandey confirming the ownership of land in favour of Lakshmi Das Upadhya Koirala free from all sorts of taxation (bitalav).

Dindayal Pandey, Birdha Village

Dindayal Pandey, resident of Birdha village, has in his possession a document dated 1842 B.S. (1785 A.D.), which reads as follows.

1. The executive order under the signature of King Shiv Narayan Shah (Syahamohar) dated Saturday, Kartik Vadi 11, 1707 Shake (October 1785 A.D.) donating a sum of rupees 100 to Madhan Pandey of Giduwa.

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The District of Nuwakot

The district of Nuwakot located within the Central Region Development Sector is one of the 8 districts of the Bagmati Zone. the district headquarters of the place is Bidur. The district in the east is bounded by Sindhupalchok, Rasuwa in the north Dhading in the west and Kathmandu and Makwanpur in the south. Though the transport facilities in the district are minimal against requirements, there is a bus service from Kathmandu to Trishuli and this route has facilitated transport system to some extent. There are other unmacadamised roads where motors can ply so that Rasuwa from Trishuli Bazar via Betrabati can be reached. This district of Nuwakot is 72 kilometres away from Kathmandu. It takes 4 hours by bus to reach Trishuli. This district has 50 villages. The villages of this district have been declared models.

King Prithvi Narayan Shah laid the foundation stone of the unification campaign of Nepal by the conquest of Nuwakot in 1744 A.D. prior to this, the administration of Nuwakot had been run by feudatory chiefs under the suzerainty of the Malla kings of Kantipur. The feudatory chief of Nuwakot at that time was Jayant Rana. During the pre-medieval period this district had nine fortresses and was famous as Navkwath and later on has been called Nuwakot. After the unification of Nepal, the administration of this district was run by west No. 1 Nuwakot Goswara. During the Rana administration, the chief military depot was headed by a chief officer (Badahakim). After the introduction of the panchayat system, the kingdom of Nepal was divided into 14 zones and 75 districts and the district of Nuwakot under the Bagmati Zone has been administered by the chief district officer.

The historical source materials retrieved from the district read as follows.

Sanu Ratna Vajracharya, Nuwakot

Sanu Ratna Vajracharya, resident of the Nuwakot district has 11 historical documents dating from 1911 to 1956 B.S. (1854 to 1899 A.D.), some of which read like these.

1. The document under the signatures of Commander-in-Chief General Jung Bahadur Kunwar and General Bam Bahadur Kunwar summoning Dhampyani, the exerciser, to come to Kathmandu for medical treatment. It is dated Thursday, Ashadh Vadi 5, 1911 B.S. (June 1, 1854 A.D.).

2. The document under the signatures of Commander-in-Chief General Jung Bahadur Ranaji and General Bam Bahadur Ranaji dated Wednesday, Bhadra Sudi 8, 1912 B.S. (September 1955 A.D.) directing Bhairav Simha, the cashier, to operate the ritual operations of Swachhanda Bhairav according to the agreement made.

3. The document of the Guthi Kachahari dated Saturday, Jesth Vadi 5, 1930 B.S. (May 1873 A.D.) authorizing Ratna Chudamani Gubhaju resident of Jhwabahal to take possession of the land and other things to operate the trust of Shree Narayan of Nuwakot.

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4. The document under the signature of Ratna Chudamani Gubhaju dated Wednesday Ashwin Sudi 2, 1930 B.S. (October 1873 A.D.) authorizing Surya Muni Vakvajra, the patriarch and agnate (Phuki) to operate the Hathu Guthi of Swachand Bhairav and divide the residue to be enjoyed among his (Surya Muni's) brothers.

5. The document under the Signature of Ratna Man Simha dated Sunday Chaitra Sudi 4, 1934 B.S. (April 1878 A.D.) directing Pema Chhiring and Tashi Katuwal to recover rent from those guilty of misappropriating the trust land attached to Shree Bhairav deity in the manner provided in law.

Jagannath Dhungana, Rawal Swanra

Jagannath Dhungana, resident of Rawal Swanra, has in his possession two historical documents dated 1839 and 1908 B.S. (1782 and 1851 A.D.) which read as follows.

1. The executive order of King Ran Bahadur endorsed by Damodar Pandey and dated Sunday Chaitra Vadi 13, 1839 B.S. (1782 A.D.) making a gift of house and land to Divakar Upadhyay in appreciation of operating the rituals of Shree Vishnu Narayan.

2. The document dated Thursday Magh Vadi 2, 1908 B.S. (January 1851 A.D.) under the signatures of three brothers - Priyag Datta, Hari Datta and Guru Datta - donating through a resolution the rent-free holdings belonging to their shares to Taranand Acharya, the family priest.

Mangal Lal Pradhan, Battar

Mangal Lal Pradhan, resident of Battar, has in his possession 8 historical documents dating from 1902 to 1959 B.S. (1855 to 1902 A.D.) and a palm-leaf dated 1774 B.S. (1717 A.D.) and in all there are 9 (nine) documents which read as follows.

1. The Lal Mohar of King Surendra dated Sunday Bhadra Sudi 1912 B.S. (September 1855 A.D.) directing the subjects and village officials to deliver the rent, other dues, tributes, additional rent, leaves and herbal medicine and take delivery of such sums by the persons concerned according to age-old practice. This is the stipulation made through this Lal Mohar.

2. The executive order of General Krishna Bahadur Kunwar Rana dated Saturday Sudi 1916 B.S. (1859 A.D.) providing for postal services. It is addressed to second Lieutenant Nain Simha Thapa when the attention of the government was drawn to the unnecessary harassment made by the tax-collectors in respect of those items which have hitherto been exempted from cess, custom duties and rent.

3. The document under the signature of Commander-in-Chief Dev Shumshere dated Wednesday Poush Sudi 9, 1951 (January 1895 A.D.) instructing the staff of the custom office of Seravyasi to impose new custom duties as directed with immediate effect on various goods.

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4. A palm-leaf dated 808 Chaitra Krishna Pratipada (March 1686 A.D.) alienating land on consideration by Bhashu Dev Bharo, resident of Asan street, Kantipur to Jay Simha, resident of Bhungal Chhen, Bhotahiti.

Ganesh Kumar Shahi, Nuwakot

Ganesh Kumar Shahi, resident of Nuwakot, has in his possession 9 documents dating from 1806 to 1883 B.S. (1749 to 1826 A.D.).

1. The document under the signature of King Prithvi Narayan Shah dated Thursday Phalgun Vadi 5, 1806 B.S. (February 1686 A.D.) exempting Kambal Ban Gosain from payment of duties on the goods brought through Kuti.

2. The letter of King Prithvi Narayan Shah dated Wednesday Ashadh Vadi 14 .... (June ....) addressed to Bhagawati Ban Gosain in respect of recent development.

3. The document under the signature of King Prithvi Narayan Shah dated Wednesday Phalgun Shukla Panchami 1690 Shake (February 1767 A.D.) directing Naijram Medhasi to see that homestead lands are constructed, the lands where houses have fallen down are abandoned and the place is thickly populated.

4. The document dated Magh Krishna Guru Vasare, 1691 B.S. (February 1770 A.D.) under the signature of King Prithvi Narayan Shah with the endorsement from Dalmardan Shah and Sur Pratap Shah granting the office of the headman to Naijram Medhasi.

5. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Friday Shrawan Vadi 2, 1883 B.S. directing the Dhamis, Chaudharies and Newar subjects of Nuwakot to build houses and set up stalls at Nuwakot.

Hari Man Simha Dhami, Nuwakot

Hari Man Simha Dhami, resident of Nuwakot, has in his possession 65 documents from 1800 to 1976 B.S. (1743 to 1919 A.D.), together with 10 synopses, some of which read like these.

1. A bond dated Phalgun Sudi 1863 B.S. (March 1807 A.D.) under the signature of Jay Simha Bhansarin pledging to pay the rent to Kamal Ban Gosain.

2. The document dated Poush Sudi 5 .... (January ....) under the signature of King Ranjit Malla relinquishing his authority over the monastery and alms-giving operation in favour of Anand Aran Gosain.

3. The document dated Monday Jesth Vadi 15 .... (May ....) under the signature of King Jaya Prakash Malla written to Kamal Ban Gosain, the abbot, in respect of fiscal transaction.

4. The document dated Wednesday Shrawan Vadi 7 .... (July ....) written under the signature of King Jaya Prakash Malla to Kamal Ban Gosain and Rakham Puri Gosain in respect of fiscal transaction.

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5. The document of king Jaya Prakash Malla dated ... summoning Bhagawati Ban Gosain to come to Kantipur.

6. The sales deed of land dated Poush Shukla Saptami 1851 B.S. (January 1795 A.D.) made by.

Mukund Raj Pandey, Vohara Pani

Mukund Raj Pandey, resident of Vohara Pani, has in his possessions two documents dated 1828 B.S. (1771 A.D.) and 1790 Shake (1868 A.D.). They have published in "Purnima" No. 65. They read as follows.

1. The document dated Tuesday Ashadh Vadi 13, 1828 B.S. (June 1771 A.D.) under the signature of the queen causing the land dispute settled between Muralidhar Pandey and Bamsidhar Jaisi of Nuwakot.

2. A document dated Thursday Marg Vadi 6, 1790 Shake (November 1868 A.D.) detailing the items of expenditure incurred when the mother of Bala Bhadra Pandey expired.

Mohan Prasad Khanal, Naya Nath Poudel

The documents dating from 1787 to 1906 B.S. (1730 to 1849 A.D.) and 27 historical papers relating to Nuwakot have been published in the Abhilekh Mala (a series of records) on various pages edited by Mohan Prasad Khanal and Naya Nath Poudel. Some of these read like these.

1. The Lal Mohar of King Ran Bahadur dated Saturday Phalgun Sudi 1, 1847 B.S. (March 1781 A.D.) and endorsed by Ranjit Pandey and Aniruddha Upadhya confirming the ownership of the rent-free holding in favour of Kripa Ram Pandit, the astrologer who was given that land by the king of Lamjung.

2. The executive order of King Ran Bahadur endorsed by Damodar Pandey and dated Wednesday Shrawan Sudi 10, 1851 B.S. (August 1794 A.D.) deploying the headmen, nobles and retinue under the command of Bhakti Thapa.

3. The Lal Mohar of King Girvan dated Ashwin Sudi 10, 1866 B.S. (October 1809 A.D.) and endorsed by Bhim Sen Thapa, Randyot Shah, Bal Nar Simha Kunwar and Ranjung Pandey granting irrevocably a piece of land to Angad Thapa.

4. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Tuesday Shrawan Sudi 15/15, 1874 B.S. (August 1817 A.D.) directing the headman to purchase a buffalo for operating the rituals of Nuwakot palace on the occasion of Durga Puja (Dasain).

5. A document dated Wednesday Marg Vadi 7, 1906 B.S. (November 1849 A.D.) where Jit Man the son of the exorciser of Nuwakot stands as a surety for Hari, the son of Tejbet of Nuwakot, who was lodged in a judicial lock-up in connection with the purchase of salt.

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Ram Bahadur Majhi, Majhitar

Ram Bahadur Majhi, resident of Majhitar has a document dated 1832 B.S. (1775 A.D.) which reads as follows.

1. The executive order to King Pratap Simha dated Sunday Marg Sira Vadi 12, 1832 B.S. (November 1775 A.D) directing Bitalavya Majhi to send castrated goats, clarified butter and oil to Kathmandu for the rice-feeding ceremony of the prince (Ran Bahadur Shah).

Chandra Lal Shrestha, Bhutol

Chandra Lal Shrestha, resident of Bhutol, has in his possession one document relating to the protection of the forest. It is dated 1888 B.S. (1831 A.D.). It has been published in "Purnima" No. 65 on pages 40-41 by Dinesh Raj Pant. It reads as follows.

1. The executive order of King Rajendra dated Thursday Ashadh Vadi 13, 1888 B.S. (June 1831 A.D.) directing Adai Chaudhuri, the headman of Nuwakot not to let the forest around the shrine of Taleju to be cleared off when the complaint that the forest is going to be cleared off was lodged before the government.

The District Court, Nuwakot

The district court of Nuwakot has a document dated 1870 B.S. (1813 A.D.) relating to fiscal dispute, which reads as follows.

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Monday Marg Vadi 12, 1870 B.S. November 1813 A.D.) confirming the ownership of land in favour of Arjun Majhi when the land dispute between Ruchyang Majhi and Harkha Deu Kumal arose and Harkha Deu Kumal was the successful party.

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The District of Rasuwa

The district of Rasuwa within the central region development sector is most in accessible out of 8 district of the Bagmati zone. Dhunche is the district headquarters. The district in the east is bounded by Sindhupalchok, Dhading and Nuwakot in the south, Gorkha in the west and in the north Kerung (Nyalbha) of the autonomous region of Tibet. Though the transport facilities of this district is minimal, currently a motor service from Trishuli of Nuwakot to Dhunche is operational and Dhunche of Rasuwa con be reached within a few hours. The means of transport from village to village in the district is either mule tracts or foot trails. This district has 20 villages.

Prior to the declaration of Rasuwa as a separate district, this area was under the jurisdiction of Nuwakot. That is why the history of Nuwakot is the history of Rasuwa. In the medieval period the commercial relations of Kantipur with Tibet were considerably string. The Kerung Bazar itself was under the jurisdiction of Kantipur. As a result this district formed an economic axis of Kantipur in its commercial relations with Tibet. King Prithvi Narayan Shah had conquered this district along with Nuwakot, prior to the annexation of Nuwakot with the Kingdom of Gorkha, it was under the administration of Jayant Rana, the feudatory chief, (umrao) who was the vassal of the King of Kantipur. Immediately after the unification of Nepal, the administration of the district of Rasuwa had been run by the chief officer subject to the jurisdiction of the military depot of Nuwakot, west No. 1. After the introduction of the panchayat system, when the Kingdom of Nepal was divided into 14 zones and 75 districts, Rasuwa was declared a separate state. The administration currently has been run by the Rasuwa district administration under the Bagmati zone.

The historical source materials retrieved from the district read as follows.

The Revenue Office, Rasuwa

The history of the establishment of the Revenue Office at Rasuwa is not very old and the revenue administration of the entire district of Rasuwa was supervised by the Revenue Office based at Nuwakot not very long ago and it is learnt that records of old revenue-related materials of Rasuwa must have been maintained at Nuwakot. There are two to four ledger books and registration- related materials.

Rasuwa Gadhi

The fort situated at the confluence of the Kerung stream and the Linde stream and bordering on the boundary of the autonomous region of Tibet, China is the fort of Rasuwa Gadhi. After the name of this fort, the whole of the district is called Rasuwa. Prior to the construction of the Arniko Highway, this district was one of the principal commercial routes of Nepal and Tibet from the ancient time. The materials retrieved from the district read as follows.

1. A stele with the allusion that the fort was constructed within the period of two months and thirteen days under the supervision of Lieutenant Colonel Sataram Khatri. It is dated Sunday Chaitra 9, 1912 B.S. (March 1856 A.D.).

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2. A stele dated Poush 19, 2017 B.S. (January 1961 A.D.) with the allusion that survey operation from Husundo to Yangra was conducted and the boundaries defined under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Pashupati Shumshere during the administration of King Mahendra.

3. There are three shrines at the periphery of Rasuwa Gadhi dedicated to Rasuwamai Bhagawati, Bhim Sen and Ganesh of those, the shrine of Ganesh was constructed on Sunday Marg 1, 1970 B.S. (November 1913 A.D.). The stele with the allusion that five grievous sins will be committed by the person guilty of pulling down, defiling or damaging the fort and the temples.

The Dhaiphobrang Gompa of Guru Rimboche, Timure Village

There is a gompa at Ward No. 8 of Timure village. It is known as Dhaiphobrang Gompa of Guru Rimboche. There are religious works called Hymn (scriptures) written in Tibetan script and language and recited over and over by the pions Lamas. These scriptures (Hymns) are scribed in golden and silver letters.

The Temple of Shiva, Lahare Village

There are two temples dedicated to Lord Shiva at Lahare village. This temple was built by the local people out of funds collected by public begging during Kartik 2028 B.S. (November 1971 A.D.) as alluded to on the stone tablet.

The Tashiling Gompa, Lahare Pauwa

There is a gompa named Tashiling Ghyang at Ward No. 8 of Lahare Pauwa village of the Gombo hill where a fair on the full moon day of Baisakh (May) is held. Though there are no public records or stele, the gompa was built some 95 years before according to the version of the local people. There are two to four Lamaist scriptures recited again and again by the devout Lamas.

The Dhunche Gompa

At the district headquarters of Rasuwa there is a gompa called Dhunche Ghyang founded by Dorje Lama. the historical source materials available here read like these.

1. There is a bell dedicated during the administration of premier Jung Bahadur. It contains an inscription in tibetan script and language.

2. There are scriptures which the Lamas recite during the month of Shrawan (July-August).

Syapru Besi Ghyang

At the Syapru Besi village of Rasuwa, the Syapru Besi Gompa stands. According to the version of the local Lama, this gompa was built during the administration of premier Jung Bahadur by Dewa Khamjung Lama. The public records available here read like these.

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1. There is a bell dedicated during the administration of premier Jung Bahadur after Nepal-Tibet war. The inscription engraved on the bell is in Tibetan script and language.

2. There is a scripture called "Gyaga ke du" which is recited by the Lamas.

The Myangjung Gompa of Syapru

The Myangjung Gompa is located at Syapru village of the district of Rasuwa. According to the version of the local Lama, this Gompa was constructed some 400 years before at the Malla period. There was a copper plate issued by the Malla king in favour of this Gompa. According to the version of the local Lama, that copper plate has been taken currently to the Helambu Gompa, what the copper plate contained could not known. This gompa has currently 16 manuscripts in Tibetan script and language. Out of 16 manuscript, one is "Gyaga ke du". This manuscript is written in golden letters. According to the tradition this manuscript was scribed by the man from the jungle as the local Lama claims. This manuscript is recited when there is a solar or lunar eclipse or when a person dies.

The Tashi Gompa

This Tashi Gompa is located at the village of Bharkhu. According to the claims of the local Lamas this Gompa was built some 400 years before by Ninda Pasang Lama. The public records retrieved from the place read as follows.

1. A bell dedicated on Wednesday Jestha 29, 1847 or 1712 Shake (May 1790 A.D.) by Harihar Padhya, Harkha Upadhya and Kapil Muni Upadhya with the inscription on the bell to maintain religious practice.

2. There is a bell dedicated in 1873 B.S. (1816 A.D.) with the inscription on the bell making an allusion to Queen Tripura Sundari and King Ran Bahadur.

3. The scripture named "Gyaga ke du" with 8 to 10 hymned books.

The Gatlang Chhering Gompa

The Gatlang Chhering Gompa is located at Gatlang village. Some images were made available to this Gompa during the administration of premier Jung Bahadur when the war with Tibet was fought. Those images were presumed lost and there are currently images of Lord Buddha and the Lamas, together with 8 armed and 11 headed image of Lord Bishnu within this Gompa. There are 11 scriptures which the Lamas recite. This Gompa has 20 to 25 ropanis of land as the trust for operating its rituals but for want of proper utilisation of the trust land, the mere routine operation of its rituals is conducted somehow or other.

Gosain Kund

There are countless copper coins and copper goods offered to the deity of this glacial lake from the ancient time. There is every possibility of recovering those items.

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There is a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva as well as traveller's two rest-houses at Gosain Kund. There is a stele to the southern side of this temple. It reads as follows.

1. The stone slab tells us that the temple of Shiva was renovated in 1773 B.S. (1716 A.D.).

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The District of Dolakha

The district of Dolakha situated at the Central Region Development Sector is a Himalayan district at the top of the Janakpur Zone. This district lies in the lap of Gaurishankar Himalaya. Charikot is the district headquarters. The district is bounded in the east by Solukhumbu, Sindhupalchok in the west, the border of the autonomous region of Tibet, China in the north and the district of Ramechhap in the south. Though this district is considered inaccessible from the view point of transport, it has become less inaccessible when compared with other district. Previously people would travel by bus up to Barbise and they had to walk 18 miles. Currently a highway linking Kathmandu with Jiri has become operational so that the transport between Dolakha and Kathmandu is not that difficult. In respect of its internal transport, the means is either foot trails or mule tracts. Though this has no regular air-service, a STOL ground has been constructed so that chartered flights can be arranged. This district has 38 villages.

During the early Malla period Dolakha existed as an independent kingdom. After the middle of the Malla rule, it existed under the suzertainty of the king of Kantipur. Prior to the occupation of the valley of Kathmandu, King Prithvi Narayan Shah had conquered Dolakha, Sindhupalchok and Nuwakot. Prior to this period the rulers of the Some (lunar) dynasty had been administering this district. Those rulers ran the administration of Dolakha assuming the high-sounding epithets like "the Lord of the village of Nepal," "the paramount sovereign of Nepal," "the Lord of Dolakha" and "the king of kings".

After the unification of Nepal King Prithvi Narayan Shah had appointed his brother Daljit Shah to the post of the military governor. After that, the royal agnates or the Shahs were appointed in a traditional manner to that office to run the administration of Dolakha. After the introduction of the panchayat system, the kingdom of Nepal was divided into 14 zones and 75 districts and the district administration subject to the zonal administration has been run by the chief district officer.

The historical source materials available in the district read as follows.

Sthir Bahadur Achaju, Dungal Tol

Sthir Bahadur Achaju, resident of Dungal Tol, has a document dated 1715 B.S. (1668 A.D.) which reads as follows.

1. A document dated 789 Chaitra Shukla 14 (April 1668 A.D.) dedicating land as a trust for operating the Tha Puja Guthi of Shri Natheshwar by Nayak Sabli Bharo and Jhagram Krishna.

Mohan Prasad Khanal

Mohan Prasad Khanal has one document of the Dolakha environs dated 1886 B.S. 1830 A.D.). The document has been published in a book entitled Abhilekh Mala(a series of records) on pages 98-99 which reads as follows.

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1. The Lal Mohar of King Rajendra dated Saturday, Chaitra Vadi 11, 1886 B.S. (March 1830 A.d.) and endorsed by Ranjor Thapa, Ranadyot Shah, Bhim Sen Thapa, Phatteh Jung Shah and others directing Dhan Man Bhairav Simha to utilise as a trust the estate of Jasdhan who died issueless for operating the rituals of Shri Bhimeshwar on the first of the Durga Puja and those of the deity of Bikat.

Amar Kumar Pradhan, Dolakha

Amar Bahadur Pradhan, resident of Dolakha, has a collection of 10 documents dating from 1672 to 1882 B.S. (1615 to 1825 A.D.), which read as follows.

1. A promissory note dated Jesth Sudi 10, 735 N.S. (June 1615 A.D.) where Jak Simha of the Dolakha Buddhist monastery lends a certain sum to Lakshmi Das.

2. A sales deed dated Baisakh Sudi 13, 795 N.S. (May 1675 A.D.) where Rajan Hari Das buys a garden belonging to his wife's brother.

3. A document relating to fiscal transaction dated Bhadra Vadi 2, 797 (August 1677 A.D.) between Ratna Krishna of Listi Tol, Dolakha and Jugi Deoju with various persons standing as witnesses.

4. The document under the signature of Pratap Simha Dev dated Kartik Vadi 11, 1820 B.S. (October 1763 A.D.) authorising Ratna Bir Simha and Anant to fine the encroacher on the field.

5. A document dated Baisakh Sudi 9, 1827 B.S. (May 1770 A.D.) where Kisan Lama, the headman of Dolakha and Kamaleshwar making the delivery of the daughter of the female slave - Mamsawati - and a cow herd to Ratna Bir Simha.

Narayan Krishna Shrestha, Dolakha

Narayan Krishna Shrestha, resident of Dolakha, has in his possession two documents dated 1753 and 1780 B.S. (1696 and 1723 A.D.) and a palm-leaf.

1. The document dated Shrawan Sudi 4, 843 (August 1723 A.D.) under the signature of King Jay Jagat Jay Malla Dev re-confirming the ownership of the rent-free holding granted by the previous King Jay Mahindra Simha (Bhaskar Malla) and Rajendra Malla standing as a witness to the deed.

2. The document dated Jesth Vadi 2, 1780 B.S. (May 1723) under the signature of King Jay Malla directing five nobles of Dolakha to take possession of the lands under their ownership after making inquiry into their respect lands.

3. A palm-leaf - a sales deed dated Baisakh Krishna Dasami 816 N.S. (April 1696 A.D.) where Vishwambharo of Kantipur alienates his land attached to the trust of Bhairav of Indrajatra to Yogi Bharo of Dolakha and the witnesses to this deed are Nava Simha Bharo, Ram Bharo and Krishna Shankar Bharo and the scribe was Bhim Datta Brahman.

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Lal Bahadur Joshi, Dolakha

Lal Bahadur Joshi, resident of Dolakha has two documents dated 1832 B.S. (1775 A.D.) and three manuscripts, some of which read as follows.

1. A document dated Monday, Jesth Vadi 2, 1832 B.S. (May 1775 A.D.) under the signature of King Pratap Simha Shah authorizing Jagannath or his son or daughter to use the residue of the trust of Shri Bhimeshwar after distributing rice to the visiting guests and offering butter-fed lights to the deity.

2. The executive order of King Rajendra confirming the established practice of the seven hundred Newars of the town of Dolakha, relating to the sacrifice of animals and the operations of rituals at the shrine of Bhimeshwar, including the ownership of the dome steads, their rent-free lands, dry or wet, except 82 plots of land seized by the state in 1862 B.S. (1805 A.D.).

Manuscripts

1. One manuscript entitled, "The glory of Shri Durga Ambika" scribed by Nandram Pandit dated Shrawan Shukla Panchami 1731 Shake (August 1809 A.D.).

2. A manuscript entitled, "Rudrayamal Tantra (esoterica) scribed by Chhabi Lal dated Thursday, Ashadh Shukla Purnima or 1754 Shake (July 1832 A.D.).

Bhairav Man Joshi, Dolakha

Bhairav Man Joshi, resident of Dolakha, has in his custody two documents dated 1864 B.S. (1807 A.D.) and 1901 B.S. (1844 A.D.) and a palm-leaf dated 1799 B.S. (1742 A.D.) and thus he has 3 pieces in his collection.

1. The executive order of King Girvan dated Monday, Marg Vadi 9, 1864 B.S. (November 1807 A.D.) authorising Bhoj Simha to operate the trust of Shri Bhimeshwar. The document is endorsed by Bhim Sen Thapa, Pran Shah, Randhoj Thapa, Bal Narsimha Kunwar and others.

2. The document under the signature of Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief Mathwar Simha Kala Bahadur dated Saturday, Chaitra Vadi 13, 1901 B.S. (March 1845 A.D.) directing Lakshya Majhi to operate the trust of Shri Bhimeshwar, not to hinder the operation of the trust of the deity under any pretext and obtain the clearance certificate after delivering the rent of the trust land.

3. A palm-leaf - this is a sales deed of a house called Kwathgriha to Jugi Dev of Listi Tol (house block) of the town of Dolakha on Ashadh Sudi 1, 782 Nepal Sambat (July 1662 A.D.) for rupees 1000 of the coins of King Pratap Malla by King Jaya Pratap Malla Dev.

Bharat Bahadur Shrestha, Dolakha

Bharat Bahadur Shrestha, resident of Dolakha, has in his possession three manuscripts dating from 1747 to 1825 B.S. (1690 to 1768 A.D.) which read as follows.

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1. A manuscript entitled, "Hitopadesh" (fables) scribed by Daivagya Bhuwaneshwar on Friday, Marg Sira Shukla Chaturdasi Rohini Nakshatra 811 Nepal Sambat (December 1691 A.D.).

2. A manuscript entitled "Vetala Katha (tales of the phantom) scribed by Surath Simha on the eleventh day of the dark fortnight in the month of Bhadra 831 Nepal Sambat (August 1711 A.D.).

3. A manuscript entitled "Chanakya Sara Sangrah (Essence of Hindu polity) scribed by Daivagya Sarwanand on Tuesday the third day of the bright fortnight of Baisakh 888 Nepal Sambat (April 1968 A.D.).

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The District of Udaypur

The district of Udaypur located in Eastern Region Development sector is one of the six districts of the Sagarmatha Zone. Gaighat is the headquarters of this district. This is a hilly district with the inner Tarai. The district is bounded in the east by Dhankuta and Sunsari and in the west the districts of Sindhuli and Dhanusha, the districts Okhaldhunga, Khotang and Bhojpur and the districts of Siraha and Saptari and this district borders on nine districts. The transport system in winter is easily accessible, though the roads are unmacadamised but in rainy season the roads are impassable. In winter a motorable road from Phattepur links Gaighat. to be specific the bus service from Phattepur to Kanchanpur is in operation. From there the motorable road running along the stream reaches Gaighat, the district headquarters, by passing through Beltar. As the motorable road runs to Katari of Udaypur, the other route passing through the fort of Udaypur from Katari is equally frequented. As the wireless service is available at the fort of Udaypur 32 kilometres from the district headquarters at Gaighat and the district headquarters at Gaighat has no wireless service facilities, the district administration faces considerable difficulties in providing wireless service facilities for the district headquarters. This district for communications has postal service as well. This district has 43 villages. Before the division of the kingdom, this district was administered by the chief officer (Bada Hakim). Before 2028 B.S. (1971 A.D.), the district headquarters was the fort of Udaypur. Then the headquarters was shifted to Gaighat.

In ancient time a king named Uday used to rule over this district and after his name the name of the place was Udaypur according to popular belief. In the medieval period King Mukund Sen of Palpa in course of the expansion of his kingdom had deputed his youngest son - Lohang Sen - to conquer the eastern region. Later on when Mukund Sen divided his kingdom among his sons, his youngest son - Lohang Sen - obtained Udaypur as his share. Then the kings of the Sen dynasty went on ruling over this territory. In 1830 B.S. (1773 A.D.) when the Gorkha army laid a siege to Chaudandi, Hem Karna Sen of the place left Chaudandi and ran away elsewhere. After that Udaypur was annexed the greater Nepal.

The historical source materials available in the district of Udaypur read like these.

Udaypur Gadhi lies at a distance of one day's walking from the current district headquarters of Gaighat called Bokse. Udaypur Gadhi situated at the top of the hill commands the entire valley. After the district headquarters was shifted from this place, no other important buildings except minor offices, archaeological remains and the panchayat building can be sighted here. A middle school is operational here. A wing of the fort can be observed as a sample. From the observation of the remains of the eastern side of the fort, it comes to our knowledge that the fort was built of gigantic bricks. The armoury is still extant. According to the local tradition, the shifting of the headquarters from Chaudandi Gadhi to Udaypur took place in 1887 B.S. (1830 A.D.).

1. A metal inscription dedicated in 1975 B.S. (1918 A.D.) by Ganga Bahadur.

2. An upright stone inscription dated 19\24 B.S. (1868 A.D.).

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3. The stone tablet of 1994 B.S. (1937 A.D.)

The Revenue Office, Udaypur

The revenue office of Udaypur does not maintain old documents of specific importance. There are 75 bunches of documents 35 of which relate to the collection of revenue from the subjects under different headings and 40 of which relate to registrational documents. As all the documents, specifically, in the possession of the revenue offices name been sent to the Department of Revenues, the information to that effect is available from.

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The District of Bhojpur

The district of Bhojpur located in the Eastern Region Development Sector is one of the six districts of the Kosi Zone. The district headquarters is Bhojpur Bazar. the district in the east is bounded by Sankhuwasabha and Dhankuta, Khotang in the west, Sankhuwasabha in the north and the district of Udaypur in the south. This district is situated in the hilly region and the motorable roads are wanting so that district experiences transport difficulties. The main route to and from Bhojpur is the Bhojpur-Dhankuta route. The route from Bhojpur to Dharan runs directly through Chatara via Varaha Kshetra. But this route in rainy season poses some difficulties as streams have to be forded. Together with the problem of foot-trails, even to go to one village from the other, we have to take a considerable detour for want of bridges enroute and some routes are closed in the rainy season of the most frequented routes leading to Bhojpur are the Bhojpur-Dicktel route and the Khotang-Bhojpur route. For this district there is the regular daily air-service from Kathmandu to Biratnagar. There is an airstrip at the 15 to 20 minutes walking distance at Bhojpur. Even the airstrip at Tumlingtar situated on the bank of the Arun river is a nearest point to reach Bhojpur. This district has 65 villages. When the district of east No. 4 was constituted, the district was administered by the chief officer. When the kingdom of Nepal was divided into 14 zones and 75 districts, it was called Bhojpur instead of East no. 4. This region has been known as central Kirat from the ancient days. In the medieval period of the history of Nepal King Mukund Sen (I) of Palpa belonging to the Sen dynasty extended his kingdom as far as the eastern territory of Nepal and brought it under his subjugation. Later on he divided his kingdom among his sons. In pursuance of that, Lohang Sen, the youngest son of King Mukund Sen, became the king of this territory. The Rais of the central Kirat region had been running the administration as the administrative officers of the Sen kings. The Gorkha army commanded by Abhiman Simha captured this territory in 1930 B.S. (1773 A.D.). The then King Hem Karna Sen escaped to Vijaypur and the victorious Gorkha army easily integrated this territory into the kingdom of Nepal.

The historical source materials, retrieved from the district of Bhojpur read as follows.

The shrine of Bereshwar dedicated to Lord Shiva is located on the bank of the Bere stream. It is located at a distance of 3 to 4 hours down ward trip from the district headquarters. An image dedicated to Lord Shiva is housed in a small temple. A copper plate available at the shrine reads as follows.

Subba (Subedar ?) Pahalman Karki Kshetri, resident of Paiyapani, together with his wife and son, dedicated one image to Lord Shiva called Bereshwar and a rest-house for the travellers on Friday, Phalgun 6, 1995 B.S. or 1860 Shake (February 1939 A.D.). A devotee should first of all pay homage to the big stone image of Kirtimukh Bhairav (Shiva in his terrible aspect) and later on the Lord Bereshwar located on the bank of the Bere stream. He who renovates the shrine and the rest-house will earn great merit and he who damages or defiles it in any way shall incur great sins. A finial, a bell and a statue of the donor were dedicated at the shrine of Bereshwar.

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The Temple of Siddhi Kali Bhagawati

At the periphery of the district headquarters at Bhojpur, there is the famous temple of Siddhi Kali Bhagawati. The temple is located at the higher altitude from the main market-place and a flight of stony steps has been constructed to reach there. On the way to the temple, the platform under the banyan and the holy fig trees bears the inscriptional stone slate. After passing through the entrance door, we come to the niche hollowed out of the stone near the image of Satya Narayan, where there is a copper plate dedicated by the then chief district officer.

Though the temple of Siddhi Kali is small, it presents an attractive and alluring sight. Inside the temple there is the beautiful image of Bhagawati. the deity with eight arms rides a tiger. The deity, destroyer of the demon in the form of a buffalo, carries arrows and sword in her hands. At the plinth there is an inscription dated 2010 B.S. (1953 A.D.). The deity wears a garland of skulls and a crown. the metal cast image of the deity is placed against the artistic setting. The right foot of the deity rests on the back of the tiger while the left foot rests on a small discuss which is round. There are metal cast images of the lions on both sides of the entrance door. the canopy of the image is brass mounted, which adds lustre to the image as well as the temple. As there is, the popular belief that a persons wish will be fulfilled by invoking the deity, even the state employees posted there take vows to operate its rituals and, in pursuance of the vows, goats and fowls are sacrificed at the altar.

The inscription on the canopy of Siddhi Kali reads like this.

The canopy was dedicated to the service of Shri Shri Shri Shri Siddhi Kali on Thursday, Ashadh Shukla Harishayani Ekadasi - the holy day 1982 B.S. or 1045 Shake (July 1925 A.D.) when two planets were in conjunction by Ranadhoj Barbha Raj, resident of the Abitalav village and son of Balbhadra Verma. His forehead is filled with the holy dust trodden by the god, the cow and the Brahmin. The donors are the wife and the son of the donor as well. Those who wish good in future life should not cast covetous eyes on it.

The Revenue Office, Bhojpur

As the old documents in the possession of the revenue office have generally been drawn by the Department of Revenues at the centre, the current possessions are of recent origin. Out of those the documents at the revenue office of Bhojpur read as follows.

1. There are 55 bundles of red ledger books relating to registration.

2. 40 bundles of the bunches of documents where the tasks assigned have been accomplished.

Karna Bahadur Rai, Khawa Village

Karna Bahadur Rai, ex-assistant Minister, resident of Khawa village has in his collection documents mentioned below.

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1. The ordinance dated 1998 B.S. (1941 A.D.) relating to seeds and categories of seeds.
2. The inspection of categories of seeds dated 1999 B.S. (1942 A.D.).
3. The list of the ordinances issued in 1998 B.S. (1941 A.D.) and prepared in 2002 B.S. (1945 A.D).
4. The executive order under the signature of the premier/Commander-in-Chief dated Sunday, Chaitra 11, 1969 B.S. (March 1913 A.D.).
5. The ordinance dated 1999 B.S. (1942 A.D.) directing the people to get their disputes settled through the panchayat with taking recourse to law courts.
6. The ordinance dated 1995 B.S. (1938 A.d.) relating to the respective entitlements of the Birta land holders and the Kipat land holders.
7. The Lal Mohar dated 1904 B.S. (1847 A.D.) relating to the possession and ownership of the Kipat land holders.
8. The Lal Mohar of Ashwin Vadi 5, 1925 B.S. (October 1868 A.D.) relating to the conditions and operations of the contracts.

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The District of Panchthar

The district of Panchthar located within the Eastern Region Development Sector is one of the four districts of the Mechi Zone. Phidim is the headquarters of this district. The district is bounded in the east by Darjeeling and Sikkim, India, Dhankuta and Tehrathum in the west, Taplejung in the north and Ilam, Jhapa and Morang in the south. As the district headquarters has recently a motorable road, this district has seemingly become accessible. It takes 3 to 3 1/2 hours driving by bus to reach Phidim from Ilam. The most frequented route for transport in the district is that of Ilam-Panchthar of other routes often frequented are, however, Panchthar-Dhankuta, Panchthar, Taplejung and Dharan, Panchthar routes. During the Rana regime the administration of this district was run from the military officer's headquarters based at Dhankuta and before the division of the kingdom into zones and districts some parts of this district were administered from the military officer's headquarters based Ilam. This district consists of 53 villages.

From the ancient time this region was known as further Kirat or the Limbuwan. The historical source materials available in the district read as follows.

The District Court, Panchthar

The district court, Panchthar, has in its possession 2624 bunches of documents dating from 2007 B.S. (1950 A.D.) to date. Those bunches of documents deal mostly in the following topics like the disputes over the rent from the land, bribery, relinquishment, formalising the promissory note, partition, forcible seizure of standing crop, forgery, extortion, attempt to murder, theft, dispute over land, allegation of a living person to be dead, fake deed to be invalidated, adultery, rape, deforestation, incest, demolition of the caravansary, impersonating an office-holder, intentional murder, robbery, circulation of fake Indian paper money, divorce, non-appearance at the court motivated by the opposing party and cow slaughter. Out of those a bunch documents dated Phalgun 18, 2014 B.S. (March 1958 A.D.) refers to the partition suit settled and disposed of. In this connection there are particulars of the documents to be discarded after one year, fine and maintained for ever.

The Revenue Office, Panchthar (Phidim)

The revenue office, Panchthar, has in its possession documents dating from 1950 B.S. (1893 A.D.) under various headings, some of which read like these.

1. The ledger book dated 1950 B.S. (1893 A.D.) of the dry lands of Gan Rup area.

Subject: the ledger book of the dry lands under the possession of the Limbu chiefs as per rules and regulations.

2. The ledger book dated 1950 B.S. (1893 A.D.) relating to the dry lands of Panchthar.

Subject: The villages within the area of a panchayat are listed and each village consists of 50 to 60 households of the tenants. Each village is under the

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supervision of a rent-collector. The ledger book contains the record of such items.

3. The ledger book dated 1950 B.S. (1893 A.D.) relating to the record of the wet lands of Yan Rung area.

4. The ledger book showing the entry of those owning wet lands of Panchthar Yan Rup from 1972 to 1983 B.S. (1915 to 1926 A.D.).

5. 32 bundles of documents (kept on the ground floor) relating to the formalisation of promissory notes of relinquishment of titles to land and 27 bundles (kept on the upper floor) and in all 59 bundles from 2022 B.S. (1965 A.D.).

6. The ledger book dating from 2022 to 2029 B.S. (1965 to 1972 A.D.) relating to wet lands showing the entry of the ownership rights, applications and the survey report on the lands affected, together with the bonds of the local people, the hereditary payment of rent and the payment of the revenue even when the person affected holds office.

7. The copy of the ledger-book dated 2029 to 2030 B.S. (1972 to 1973 A.D.). The record showing the sources of income and the items of expenditure of the year affected.

Subject: Prior to general survey, the rent-collector used to collect the revenue from the tenants and deliver such amount to the revenue office and the rent-collector used to collect the voucher from the revenue office and the rent-collector failing to deposit the rent collected with the revenue office and misappropriating the amount would be dismissed from the office and the lands would be registered against the names of the tenants.

Man Prasad Kerung, Luhaphu Village

Man Prasad Kerung, resident of Luhaphu village, Birjahang, has in his possession a Lal Mohar dated Shrawan Sudi 2, 1831 B.S. (August 1774 A.D.), which reads like this.

You (the Limbu chiefs) are defeated by me and the territory came under my authority. However, the members of your family are under our protection. We have restored Luwang Gadh and Siwang Gadh currently under adverse possession to your possession and ownership. Though other 900000 kings are going to be eliminated, you (the Limbu chiefs) are going to be retained because the implication is the territory has been named after them, you are required to be present here at the capital whenever summoned and enjoy the territory as the Kipat land. As long as you are faithful to me, you shall not be divested of the territory nor the power to use the Kipat land. If we divest you of this office or dispossess you in any way, let my kingdom be destroyed or dismembered by the deity hitherto worshipped or paid homage by us. This follows the language used in the copper plate. With this arrangement we deliver the Lal Mohar to the Limbu chiefs.

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Krishna Bahadur Lawati, Yasok Village

Mukhia Krishna Bahadur Lawati, resident of Yasok village has supplied the following information and the documents in his possession and their particulars read like these. After the conquest of the Kathmandu valley by King Prithvi Narayan Shah, the Great, his army advanced through the central region of Kirat and set up his strong hold at Chainpur to the east of the Arun. The army of King Prithvi Narayan Shah had guns and other fire- arms and the king of Limbus had his army armed with bows and arrows, the two armies could not confront each other and the Limbus escaped to Sikkim. In 1831 B.S. (1774 A.D.) King Prithvi Narayan Shah summoned them to come home and a Lal Mohar to that effect was made. When the Lal Mohar authorized them to exercise the use of the territory as Kipat land. Some of those expatriated were repatriated and settled there as before and others settled in Sikkim itself. The said Lal Mohar of 1831 B.S. (1774 A.D.) specifically states that the wrath of God will bring about the destruction of the (Gorkha) kingdom or its dismemberment if their Kipat lands and their customs and manners are vitiated in any way. That is the information gathered from the said Lal Mohar. The Lal Mohar of King Surendra dated 1925 B.S. (1868 A.D.) further categorically says, "Let the evil eyes of Shri Varahajyu, Shri Anliyajyu, Shri Pindeshwarjyu and Shri Kalikajyu if their lands are taken away and customs and manners vitiated even when the Limbus are faithful to the king of Nepal." According to the information available, the copy of the said document is in the custody of Jagat Jung resident of Damak, Jhapa. He is the third eldest son of Krishna Bahadur Lawati.

1. Gyan Bahadur Lawati, the priest of Shri Siddha Devi, has in his custody a copy of the Lal Mohar dated 1831 B.S. (1774 A.D.).

2. Karna Man Simha Phebodin, resident of ward No. 6 Yasok village panchayat, has reportedly one Mundhum (Veda).

3. Padma Chandra Lapcha, resident of Ramphak, Phikal village panchayat, Phikal, has reportedly a collection of old documents numbering considerably.

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